

Australia's Favourite Football Fanzine and Even Bigger In Waratah!

goal!! weekly

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**GRAND FINAL
VICTORY V SFC
SAT 20TH MARCH
ETIHAD STADIUM
KO 7PM**

A-LEAGUE FINALS

BLING BURNS BRIGHT!

SHOWDOWN FIT FOR GODS SET

PHOTO: GEOFF JONES



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Front cover: dandenong Thunder's Shane Rexhepi celebrates scoring in his team's 2-1 win over Melbourne Knights on Saturday

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Alimental Enterprises Pty Ltd
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Fax: 03 9551 7538

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News Room: 03 9551 7538
Advertising: 03 9551 7538

Email: news@goalweekly.com
Letters: mailbag@goalweekly.com
Web: www.goalweekly.com

Editor: Costa Koutropoulos
Art Director: Carlos Ibarra
Design: Ivan Andreevski

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Nat Adamopoulos, Mark Boric, Bruce Darnell, Andrew Fisher, Roy Hay, Markian Jaworsky, George Katsamboukas, Eddie Krncevic, Bart Hulley, John Kyrou, Sebastian Kipman, George Kouroumalis, Michael Lilikakis, Josip Loncaric, Craig MacKenzie, Jeremy O'Neil, Teo Pellizzeri, Walter Pless, Tony Persoglia, Julius Ross, Roger Sleeman, Mike Salter, George Stogiannou, Reuben Schembri, Lachlan Taylor, Elias Simopoulos, Michal Skrodsky, Addy Wetzler, Bruno Zovko.

Photographers
Adam Butler, Therese Duffy, Daniel Flis, Dean Grant, Geoff Jones, Peter Kakalias, Darryl Kennedy, Lee McCormick, Mark McGeady, John Punshon, Brett Robson, Steve Starek, George Stogiannou.

Is there a difference between the A-League and the top Asian competitions?

By Roy Hay

AFTER the defeat by Seongnam Ilwha in the second match in this season's Asian Champions League I asked Ernie Merrick what was the main difference between the A-League and games like the one just played.

He replied, 'There is really very little difference, they play quite physically and at a high tempo. It is very similar to the A-League.'

Sasa Ogenovski, the former A-League star for Brisbane and Adelaide, said almost exactly the same.

'The K-League is much more physical than it's given credit for just as the Australian competition is far more skilful than it is often believed.'

True the top Asian leagues have few salary restrictions and have been going for much longer than our domestic competition.

They tend to attract some high quality foreign players, particularly strikers, including Josh Kennedy and Joel Griffiths. Watching the ACL games however as played by Asian teams in this country, it seems to me there are some features we could copy.

The passing accuracy of the top Asian teams appears to be better. I can't say I have examined the statistics but both against Beijing Guoan and Seongnam Ilwha there were long periods when Victory could not get hold of the ball.

When it did, moves tended to break down after two or three passes, while the Asian teams could construct quite intricate patterns with several successful exchanges.

That may have been partly because Victory was lacking several of its key players who are attuned to the 'normal' pattern of play and the newcomers or those who were filling in were often re-



Former Melbourne boy Sash Ogenovski, shows us how its done by scoring for Korean outfit Seongnam Ilwha in the 2-0 ACL win against the Victory during the week. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

turning from injury and probably short of full match fitness.

The key was often the support running and positioning of the Asian players, with multiple options available to the man on the ball, which makes the construction of moves so much easier.

It may have been the product of drilling of formation play over a long period, whereas Australian teams tend to play off the cuff.

It may have been the speed of thought of the Asian players. Craig Moore certainly noted that A-League players tended to receive the ball and then plan what to do with it, whereas he was used to playing in competitions where you had to know what you were

going to do with the ball before it arrived.

It is interesting this year, that Adelaide United, which could not take a trick in A-League, has started its ACL campaign with two splendid wins against top class teams. Perhaps they have learned to bridge the gap.

Victory has had a harder task with A-League finals only hours before their ACL matches, so physical recovery issues rather than the matters discussed here may have been more influential. Its next ACL game is similarly affected, but after that it should have the advantage of freshness, but the ACL teams will then be in the midst of their domestic

competitions, while Victory will have no other games.

Coming to terms with Asian football is, I suspect, a harder task than most Australians realise and the success of the Socceroos against some of the weaker national sides has disguised that. The average fan has to work very hard to learn about the Asian teams and as a consequence matches against even the best of the club teams have not attracted them to games in serious numbers.

So it is not just the players who are on a steep learning curve and the health of the game on and off the field depends on us all persisting.

Adelaide in snatch and grab

By Lee Gagliardi

ADELAIDE United has continued on its merry way in the Asian Champions League recording a stunning 2-0 victory against Shandong Luneng in Jinan, China.

Goals either side of the break to Sergio van Dijk, his first for the club, and young speedster Matthew Leckie, who made it two goals in two ACL fixtures, were enough to see United take all three points back to Adelaide and a three point lead atop group H.

Shandong opened the better of the two sides and tested Eugene Galekovic as early as the ninth minute. The hosts pounced on a poor clearance from Scott Jamieson and Wang Yongpo struck fiercely from a tight angle. Galekovic was up to the task battering the ball to safety for the visitors.

The Reds seemed content to play on the

counter, remaining tight and compact in midfield. On the half hour mark, a stroke of genius from creative playmaker Marcos Flores split the Shandong defence wide open.

The Argentine's through-ball met the run of Pantelis whose pin-point cross found van Dijk at the back post and scored his first goal in United colours with a free header.

The 'Chinese Real Madrid' searched for an equaliser but was frustrated with the game plan of United and was unable to find a way through. The sides went into the break with the hosts down a goal and top spot in group H up for grabs.

Flores went close to getting his first goal for Adelaide when Travis Dodd teed him up. Dodd was on the end of a raking through ball but found little support on the edge of the area. The captain did well to wait for reinforcements and found

Flores running through but the attacking midfielder saw his shot turned away by Shandong keeper Li Leilei.

The ensuing corner saw United grab a second goal and effectively sow up the match. Jamieson's in-swinging found Leckie charging in at the back post and power a header from 9m. The header flew in off the underside of the bar, bouncing over the line before coming back into play. There was a moment of confusion before the referee awarded the goal.

The Reds survived a late flurry from Shandong with Galekovic keeping out Li Jinyu's thunderous effort from close range.

United sit three points clear of Shandong in group H and take on Sanfrecce Hiroshima on March 24 at Hindmarsh Stadium.

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	
Round 2	
Group E	P W D L GF GA +/- Pts
SEONGNAM ILHWA FC (KOR)	2 2 0 0 4 0 4 6
BEIJING GUOAN (CHN)	2 2 0 0 4 1 3 6
MELBOURNE VICTORY (AUS)	2 0 0 2 0 3 -3 0
KAWASAKI FRONTALE (JPN)	2 0 0 2 1 5 -4 0
KAWASAKI FRONTALE (JPN)-BEIJING GUOAN (CHN) 1:3 MEL VICTORY (AUS)-SEONGNAM ILHWA FC (KOR) 0:2	
Group H	P W D L GF GA +/- Pts
ADELAIDE UNITED (AUS)	2 2 0 0 3 0 3 6
POHANG STEELERS (KOR)	2 1 0 1 2 2 0 3
SHANDONG (CHN)	2 1 0 1 1 2 -1 3
SANFRECCE (JPN)	2 0 0 2 1 3 -2 0
SHANDONG (CHN)-ADELAIDE UNITED (AUS) 0:2 POHANG STEELERS (KOR)-SANFRECCE (JPN) 2:1	

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SYDNEY FC



4

WELLINGTON PHOENIX



2

Match Details:

Sydney FC 4 (Chris PAYNE 21'/30'; Alex BROSQUE 62'; Mark BRIDGE 71')

Wellington Phoenix 2 (Andrew DURANTE 25'; Eugene DADI 80')

Saturday, 13 March 2010

Sydney Football Stadium, Sydney

Referee: Peter Green

Crowd: 13,196

Sydney FC line-up: 1. Clint BOLTON (gk), 2. Sebastian RYALL 3. Stephan KELLER, 4. Simon COLOSIMO, 6. Karol KISEL, 8. Stuart MUSIALIK, 9. John ALOISI (c) (16. Chris PAYNE 19'), 14. Alex BROSQUE (7. Brendan GAN 83'), 15. Terry MCFLYNN, 19. Mark BRIDGE (5. Hayden FOXE 87'), 22. Sung-Hwan BYUN

Yellow cards: Terry MCFLYNN 66'; Chris PAYNE 78'

Red cards: Nil

Wellington Phoenix line-up: 2. Manny MUSCAT, 3. Tony LOCHHEAD, 4. Jon McKAIN, 6. Tim BROWN (15. Eugene DADI 65'), 7. Leo BERTOS, 8. Paul IFILL (5. DIEGO 79'), 9. Chris GREENACRE, 13. Troy HEARFIELD (11. DANIEL 58'), 17. Vince LIA, 22. Andrew DURANTE (c), 40. Liam REDDY (gk)

Yellow cards: Nil

Red cards: Nil

GRAND FINAL

Melbourne Victory v Sydney FC

Saturday 20 March, 2010
Etihad Stadium, Melb
KO 7.00pm

National Youth League
Grand Final KO3.00pm
Gates Open 2.45pm

DOUBLE, THE PAYNE!

By Alex Milic

Sydney FC has reached its second HAL Grand Final after defeating Wellington Phoenix 4:2 at the Sydney Football Stadium in front of 13,181 fans.

A double to substitute striker Chris Payne and clinical strikes to forwards Alex Brosque and Mark Bridge have set up a date with defending champions Melbourne Victory.

After a slow start, the 'skyblues' started to pile on the pressure towards the Phoenix goal as Brosque came close to opening the scoring after a great run into the Wellington box, but his left foot shot was parried away by the excellent Liam Reddy in the visitor's goal.

The home side seemed to have been dealt a big blow when start striker and Captain John Aloisi had to come off after a hamstring injury. His replacement Chris Payne didn't take long to make an impact, after only being on the pitch for a minute he found himself on the scoresheet. A clever pass by Brosque found Payne in space on the right, who calmly slotted home from close range past goalkeeper Reddy at the near post to open the scoring after 19 minutes.

After 26 minutes, Wellington had its first real chance of the match which they managed to capitalise. Andrew Durante scored his first career goal after heading home from a free kick from the left hand side taken by Leo Bertos whose great cross was flicked on by Vince Lia into space where Durante was unmarked.

The goal however was only a brief setback for the Sky Blues as they immediately looked to apply pressure straight back on the Wellington side. It was a quick reply for Sydney with Payne scored a controversial goal his second and third of his career on the 30 minute mark. With a dangerous free kick from Sung-Hwan Byun to the penalty box, Payne using his outstretched left arm after missing the header converted from close range to give Sydney a 2-1 lead going into break to the disappointment of the visitors.



Supersub Chris Payne was the hero for Sydney FC after scoring a brace. PHOTO: GEOFF JONES

"It was a dreadful decision, who's going to apologies for this? The players where very upset and going into the second half their heads where down instead of being up, it was a big morale change." Wellington Manager Ricki Herbert said.

The second half started of slowly but Sydney still had the lions share of possession and on 63 minutes Brosque made Wellington's task a whole lot tougher.

With Bridge leading the attack, Sydney found themselves with a three on two in attack. With a clever pass from Bridge, he found Brosque in space, and from inside the area he slotted one past a despairing Reddy to put Sydney up 3-1.

The game was as good as over on

70 minutes as Mark Bridge netted his eighth goal of the season.

With Brosque and Bridge in space in their attacking half, the pair managed to find themselves two on one against Reddy, with Brosque unselfishly handing it off to Bridge who had an open goal beckoning. His tap in gave Sydney a three goal cushion and a 4:1 lead. "It was good we went at them. We put them on their back foot. We have been good on counter attacks all year and tonight was an example of that," Alex Brosque said.

Second half Phoenix substitute Eugene Dadi managed to get one back as he headed past Sydney keeper Clint Bolton from close range, the goal was a consolation for the Phoenix who where out played throughout the match.

"It was an important game for both teams. I was happy we played a good game," coach Vitezslav Lavicka said. "It was trouble when John Aloisi had to come off but Payne is a young player and he showed tonight that he is more than a good replacement." After the emphatic win Sydney FC is already looking ahead for the Grand Final.

"We are now focusing on next week's game. We will have a couple of recovery sessions and after that we will prepare and train for next week's final." A happy Lavicka said.



All aboard the championship express! Terry McFlynn gets a ride from Alex Brosque. PHOTO: GEOFF JONES



The Sky Blues now head to Melbourne to wrestle the Victory for the HAL crown. PHOTO: GEOFF JONES

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Copa hits midweek and the bottle

IN a week filled with media criticism on the much-publicized scrutiny of Brazilian forward, former Inter Milan and current Flamengo star Adriano with alcohol issues along with Copa Libertadores mid-week action, Argentina president Cristina Fernández de Kirchner was about to announce a government message on national television only to realise she needed to postpone it due to the coverage of a Clausura match between Chacarita Juniors and San Lorenzo where the head of state admitted, “as a politician I am ready to confront opposition but never with a football fan at home whom are normal people until the very moment of a television match broadcast to which these people convert themselves onto the incredible Hulk.” A considerable act to do and quite memorable words to say.

Friday night saw the opening clash of the ninth round with Velez Sarsfield narrowly defeating Lanús with a brilliant taken free-kick by Rolando Zárate leaving them in the top four in the standings of the Argentine Clausura with eyes on the next Copa Libertadores group match against Chilean champions Colo-Colo in earthquake-ridden Santiago where Cruzeiro is two points behind them at the top of Group 7.

Still in Buenos Aires, on Friday notable Chilean football greats amongst them former Real Madrid and Inter Milan striker Ivan Zamorano flew into the Argentine capital to strike a deal for a star-studded benefit match for its earthquake disaster victims. The line-up includes a selection of the best players in the current Argentine tournament including Martin Palermo, Juan Román Riquelme, Juan Sebastián Verón and Matías Almeyda amongst others, a string of Chilean players playing their trade across the Andes in the Clausura cham-

pionship, greats like Colombian Carlos Valderrama and Uruguayan, Enzo Francescoli and Real Madrid great, Emilio Butragueño also confirmed his presence with an announcement from the Spanish giants to come in the next few days.

Onto the round of Copa Libertadores fixtures, Washington scored twice as Sao Paulo of Brazil won 2-0 at Paraguayan club Nacional in the group stage of the Copa Libertadores on Thursday while debutants Cerro of Uruguay also enjoyed an away win, while Brazilian clubs Internacional and Cruzeiro were held to draws.

Washington rounded the goalkeeper to put Sao Paulo ahead in the 59th minute and converted a low cross from the left for the second in the 90th against Nacional. The win moved Sao Paulo to second in Group 2, a point behind Colombia's Once Caldas after three matches. Nacional has lost all three games so far. Claudio Dado scored the winner in the 67th minute in Cerro's 2-1 victory at Emelec of Ecuador. Pablo Caballero opened the scoring for the Uruguayan club in the 52nd, while Pablo Perez got a consolation goal for Emelec in the 71st. Cerro tops Group 5 after a second straight win.

Internacional sits two points behind Cerro after a 1-1 draw with Ecuador's Deportivo Quito. Deportivo took the lead through Tilson Minda in the 33rd minute, but Giuliano equalized for the Brazilian club in the 41st. Goals from Kleber in the 27th and 51st minutes earned Cruzeiro a 2-2 draw against Venezuelan club Deportivo Italia, but the striker soured his night after receiving a red card in the 86th. Richard Blanco scored the opener for Deportivo Italia in the 12th minute and David McIntosh rescued a first point of this year's tournament for the Venezuelan club with a 66th minute leveler. Deportivo Italia also finished with 10 men after Rafael Lobo was shown a straight red card in the 90th minute. Sub-

stitute Dentinho scored an 86th minute equaliser as Corinthians, looking to win the Libertadores Cup for the first time in their centenary year, drew 1-1 away to Independiente Medellin on Wednesday.

Medellin went ahead in the 75th minute after left back Juan Valencia crossed low into the middle for Corinthians captain Chicão, who missed the ball but substitute Valoyes darted in to finish past keeper Felipe. The goal came two minutes after an ineffectual, overweight Ronaldo had been substituted by Corinthians. Dentinho shot from outside the box on the left and his dipping effort found the top far corner of Paraguayan goalkeeper Aldo Bobadilla's net to cancel out Cesar Valoyes's goal for the Colombian champions.

Fellow Brazilians Flamengo in Group 8, who lifted South America's top club trophy in 1981, won 3-1 away to FC Caracas with two goals from Vagner Love, his first a penalty. Corinthians lead group one with four points from two matches. Flamengo, without the dropped Adriano and down to 10 men for 37 minutes after Toro was sent off for a second booking, lead group eight with a maximum six points.

Universidad Católica meanwhile appeared to be on the verge of winning the first official match in Chile up north in the unaffected seaside port city of Coquimbo with their traditional cross-town rival Universidad de Chile since the recent earthquakes, but Puch's injury-time header secured a draw for the visitors who had taken the lead when Uruguayan stalwart Juan Manuel Olivera forced the ball home in the 19th minute.

Católica however quickly equalised, with Matias Rubio capitalising on a defensive mix-up to score.

Then, in the 70th minute, Francisco Silva beat visiting goalkeeper Esteban Conde to put Católica on top. But Puch's intervention, whom is fighting for a World Cup spot under Marcelo Bielsa's

Chilean side, gave Universidad de Chile the point they needed to go top of Group 8.

This means Brazilian giants Flamengo can leapfrog them with victory over Venezuela's Caracas on Thursday AEDT.

The pick of the round however was in a group six meeting between the champions of Argentina and Uruguay. Colombian teenager James Rodríguez scored twice to give Banfield a 2-2 draw away to Nacional at Montevideo's Centenario stadium in near-capacity crowd and sporting yet another strong-willed message to those affected with the quake in Chile on their official match jersey.

Striker Gustavo Varela gave Nacional an early lead in the 5th minute unmarked in the box from a resulting cross before 18-year-old midfielder Rodríguez struck twice, heading a 17th-minute equaliser and converting a penalty in the 35th, after he had been brought down faintly to put the Argentine side ahead. Mario Regueiro pulled Nacional level just before halftime when he tapped home the rebound after Uruguayan international central defender Sebastian Coates had headed a free kick onto the bar.

Alianza Lima, the team that humiliated holders Estudiantes 4-1 three weeks ago, beat Juan Aurich 2-0 in an all-Peruvian match to lead group three with a maximum nine points. Alianza are five points ahead of the second-placed Argentine side.

Mexican champions Monterrey hung on for a 1-1 draw away to Once Caldas in Colombia in group two after having two players sent off in the second half.

Uruguayan debutants Racing have moved level with Corinthians at the top of Group 1 with a 2-1 win over Cerro Porteno in Montevideo. Matias Mirabaje turned in Jean-Pierre Barrientos' free-kick to put Racing in front after 19 minutes, and Martin Cauteruccio doubled the lead in the 68th minute, pouncing on a mistake by goalkeeper Edgar Barreto.

Luis Enrique Caceres got a goal back for the visitors seven minutes from time. Cerro Porteno finished the game with 10 men as Javier Villarreal was sent off 12 minutes from time. They remain winless in the tournament.

Reigning champions Estudiantes came away from La Paz with a point after a goalless draw with Bolivar in Group 3. Estudiantes goalkeeper Agustin Orión was the star of the show in keeping Bolivar out, but the visitors missed their chance to win as Leandro González missed with an injury-time header from Maximiliano Nunez's cross.

Second-half goals from Gabriel Méndez (not our very own "Chichi") and Luis Escalada gave Deportivo Cuenca their first Group 6 win in three attempts as they beat Mexico's Morelia 2-0. Both sides were reduced to 10 men late on as Giancarlo Ramos of "Depor" and Morelia's Mario Moreno-González were sent off for jostling.



Nacional of Montevideo against Banfield, the pick of the round in Copa Libertadores action.

Balkans Scene with Alex Milic

SERBIA
Red Star Belgrade have taken a eight point lead on top of the Serbian league ahead of Partizan Belgrade who have a game in hand.

The red and whites defeated Rad last week away 2:1 after a great goal by Nikola Ignjatijevic sealed the three points. His shot from the left side 30 yards out seemed more like a cross, but it got the better of the Rad keeper and that was enough for Red Star to call it a day. It was interesting to see Milan Prso the nephew of former Croatia international striker Dado Prso on the losing side where he is on loan from Red Star Belgrade. The young winger is one of the rising stars of Serbian football.

Red star increased their league on the top all be it with a game more than second place Partizan as they overcame at home a lacklustre Napredak side. The team from Krusevac took a surprise lead

as Mitrovic converted from the spot after only 11 minutes.

The home side played poorly throughout the 90 minutes and have to consider themselves lucky to get the three points. Pavle Ninkov levelled proceedings at the start of the second half after his precise left foot shot on the edge of the 18 yard box was too much for the visiting keeper.

The winning goal was scored with five minutes of play remaining. Aleksandar Jevtic received a pass 10 yards out from the opposition goal from fellow striker and Serbian International Dejan Lekic and it wasn't hard for Jevtic to score the winner in front of 13,000 satisfied fans.

Rivals Partizan Belgrade managed to only take a point at home against Javor. The goalless draw was a setback for the defending champions. The best chance of the match went to Brazilian forward Cleo whose header was kept out by an excellent save by Damir Kahrman. Partizan has a game in hand as they take on Hajduk away.

CROATIA
League leaders Dinamo Zagreb drew against Zadar 0:0 in a poor match. Before the game got under way the players signed balls for their loyal fans the Bad Blue Boys who celebrated their 24th birthday.

Second placed Cibalia took advantage of Dinamo dropping points as they overcame seventh placed Lokomotiva 1:0 to cut the gap on the top to just six points.

Hajduk had a great chance to move into third position as they took on Rijeka in the derby match of the round. Former Soccerroo Josip Skoko opened the scoring for 'Bili' after 74 minutes. His 25 metre drilled shot was too much for the visiting goalkeeper. It seemed like the points were staying in Split until

Kreilach leaped in front of goalkeeper Subasic from a free kick taken from half way, finding the better side of Subasic, he headed the ball in for 1:1 to the disappointment of the home fans.



Ninkov goal celebrations

CROATIA

	P	GD	Pts
1 Dinamo	20	+48	46
2 Cibalia	20	+21	40
3 Šibenik	20	+1	36
4 Hajduk	20	+18	35
5 Karlovac	20	+8	34
6 Osijek	20	+8	32
7 Lokomotiva	20	0	31
8 Slaven Belupo	20	-1	31
9 Rijeka	20	+2	26
10 Inter Zaprešić	20	-8	21
11 Zadar	20	-13	21
12 Međimurje	20	-17	21
13 Varteks	20	-13	20
14 Istra 1961	20	-14	19
15 Zagreb	20	-9	18
16 Croatia Sesvete	20	-31	10

SERBIA

	P	GD	Pts
1. Crvena zvezda	18	34:8	49
2. Partizan	17	34:10	41
3. Spartak	17	22:13	29
4. Vojvodina	17	25:15	27
5. OFK Beograd	17	19:17	24
6. Jagodina	17	21:21	24
7. Javor	18	14:14	24
8. Smederevo	17	19:21	23
9. Netalac	17	12:20	21
10. BSK	18	13:21	19
11. Mladi radnik	17	12:20	19
12. Borac	17	13:24	19
13. Hajduk	17	18:23	17
14. Napredak	18	17:24	17
15. Rad	17	16:23	15
16. Cukaricki	17	14:29	12



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Drogba retains top spot for Blues



ENGLAND
CHELSEA'S hit man Didier Drogba was on target again to help guide Chelsea back to the summit of the Premier League table and to a 4-1 victory over West Ham United.

Alex opened the scoring at Stamford Bridge, but a magnificent volley from former Blue Scott Parker cancelled drew the sides level as the teams went into the half-time break.

Chelsea upped the momentum in the second half, with Drogba heading home to restore his side's advantage on 55 minutes, before Florent Malouda added to the score line and Drogba completed the scoring in the final minute of the match.

Arsenal moved equal with Chelsea at the top, although the Blues have a game in hand, after they scraped a dramatic 2-1 victory over 10-man Hull City in stoppage time.

Andrei Arshavin gave the Gunners the ascendancy when he escaped two markers and buried a fantastic shot, but Jimmy Bullard replied with a penalty after recently returned Gunner Sol Campbell fouled Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink in the box.

The Tigers were reduced to ten men when George Boateng was given his marching orders for a second caution for a high tackle on Bacary Sagna.

Hull battled resolutely with the numerical disadvantage, but in-form striker Nicklas Bendtner scored three minutes into injury time when the Dane buried the rebound from a Denilson shot that was spilt by City keeper Boaz Myhill.

Tottenham moved two points clear for Manchester City in the fight for fourth place, courtesy of a Roman Pavlyuchenko brace against Blackburn Rovers.

City have two games in hand and played Sunderland on Sunday, but Spurs ensured that they moved above City temporarily when Jermaine Defoe and Pavlyuchenko netted three goals between them to give the Londoners a 3-1 victory.

Chris Samba replied for Rovers but Pavlyuchenko's continued his hot run of form which has seen him net eight goals in six games.

Aston Villa had the chance to close the gap on Spurs in the race for the final Champions League spot, but they were held to a goalless draw against Stoke City.

Birmingham City maintained their six month unbeaten home record when the came from behind to draw 2-2 with Everton.

Everton scored two goals in three first-half minutes through Victor Anichebe and Ayegbeni Yakubu as the home side threatened to run away with the match.

But Cameron Jerome netted his third goal in two games to give the visitors some hope and Craig Gardner equalised – his first goal for Birmingham since his 3 million pound switch from local rivals Aston Villa.

Wolverhampton Wanderers did a world of good for their hopes of Premier League survival when they defeated fel-



Chelsea assume the position at the summit of the EPL after brushing aside London rivals West Ham United, 4-1 on the weekend.

low relegation-threatened Burnley 2-1. Wolves are now three points above Burnley – who are third last – thanks to goals from Matt Jarvis and a Clarke Carlisle own goal.

Steven Thompson netted a goal for Burnley 17 minutes from time to make for a nervy finish, but Wolves held out for a valuable three points.

Bolton Wanderers recorded their third win in four league games with an impressive 4-0 rout of Wigan Athletic. Bolton, on 32 points, are eight points from the safety mark of 40 points, with Johan Elmander, Kevin Davies, Fabrice Muamba and Matt Taylor scoring in the morale-boosting victory.



GERMANY
Hertha Berlin's Olympic stadium transformed into chaos when

the rock-bottom side lost 2-1 to Nuremberg and dozens of enraged fans invaded the pitch.

Masked with bandanas and some carrying metal poles, a number of Berlin fans spilt on onto the pitch to the sound of the final whistle, which confirmed their 17th



Hertha Berlin display a banner reading "Relegation?" ahead of the Bundesliga match against Nuremberg in Berlin.

loss of the season, to display their anger at their team's dire circumstances. Players and coaching staff had to flee to the safety of the change rooms as police chased the fans back into the stands to suppress the situation.

Hertha fans had been incensed when Nuremberg striker Angelos Haristead hit an injury-time winner for the away side, which gave his side a safety boost and moved them out of the relegation zone on 24 points.

There were no reported injuries, but the incident reflected the anger at Berlin's plight this season where they have been rooted to the bottom of table since mid-September and have 15 points from 26 matches.

Hertha had taken the lead in the encounter through Greek international Fanis Gekas, before Swiss Albert Bunjaku and Haristead completed the comeback which sparked unfortunate scenes in the German capital.

In the Bundesliga's other fixtures, the action thankfully remained on the pitch where Bayern Munich came from behind to defeat Freiburg 2-1.

Holland winger Arjen Robben was the hero, the former Real Madrid man netting a free kick with 14 minutes remaining to cancel out Cedric Makiadi's opener, before he scored a penalty with seven minutes remaining to send Munich two points clear at the top of the table. Reigning German champions Wolfsburg recorded their fourth straight league win courtesy of an Edin Dzeko brace which helped them to 4-0 victory over Borussia Monchengladbach.

Zvezdan Misimovic and Christian Gentner grabbed the other goals either side of two strikes from the dangers Dzeko.

Borussia Dortmund recorded a 4-1 victory over Bochum, while Mainz recorded a 1-0 win over Cologne



SPAIN
Real Mallorca's hopes of moving into the lucrative fourth-placed Champions League

qualification spot were shot when Getafe produced a 3-0 victory to keep their own European hopes alive.

Mallorca commenced the match level with fourth-placed Sevilla, but their hopes faded when Daniel Parejo, Miku and Man Del Moral netted for Getafe. In Saturday's other match, seventh-placed Athletic Bilbao shared the spoils with tenth-placed Sporting Gijon.



FRANCE
Defending French Ligue 1 champions Bordeaux continued their

form slump when they drew 0-0 with Monaco.

Bordeaux have only managed to pick up two points from their last three matches, however, Montpellier's 1-1 draw with Auxerre meant that there was no change at the top of the table.

Bordeaux and Montpellier remain equal on 53 points apiece, but Bordeaux have the superior goal difference (+21 to +9).



Monaco's Yannick Anister Sagbo Latte (R) jumps for the ball against Bordeaux's David Bellion.

EPL

	P	GD	PTS
1 Chelsea	29	42	64
2 Arsenal	30	38	64
3 Man Utd	29	43	63
4 Tottenham	29	25	52
5 Man City	27	17	49
6 Liverpool	29	16	48
7 Aston Villa	27	16	46
8 Birmingham	29	-1	44
9 Everton	29	4	42
10 Fulham	28	3	38
11 Stoke	29	-5	36
12 Blackburn	29	-17	34
13 Bolton	30	-18	32
14 Sunderland	28	-8	30
15 Wigan	29	-30	28
16 West Ham	29	-12	27
17 Wolves	29	-24	27
18 Burnley	30	-32	24
19 Hull	29	-34	24
20 Portsmouth	28	-23	19

Birmingham 2-2 Everton Bolton 4-0 Wigan
Burnley 1-2 Wolves Chelsea 4-1 West Ham
Hull 1-2 Arsenal Stoke 0-0 Aston Villa
Tottenham 3-1 Blackburn

SPL

	P	GD	PTS
1 Rangers	28	48	67
2 Celtic	28	24	54
3 Dundee Utd	28	6	48
4 Motherwell	30	6	48
5 Hibernian	28	9	47
6 Hearts	29	-6	37
7 St Johnstone	26	-5	31
8 Aberdeen	27	-9	30
9 Kilmarnock	29	-16	26
10 Hamilton	28	-18	26
11 St Mirren	29	-15	24
12 Falkirk	28	-24	20

Falkirk 1-2 St Johnstone
Hamilton 1-0 St Mirren
Motherwell 3-1 Hearts

SERIE A

	P	GD	PTS
1 Inter Milan	28	28	59
2 AC Milan	27	20	55
3 Roma	27	16	52
4 Palermo	27	7	46
5 Juventus	27	6	44
6 Sampdoria	27	1	43
7 Napoli	28	2	41
8 Cagliari	27	7	39
9 Genoa	27	1	39
10 Fiorentina	28	2	38
11 Bari	27	-2	35
12 Chievo	27	-1	35
13 Bologna	27	-5	34
14 Parma	27	-9	34
15 Catania	28	-2	31
16 Udinese	27	-7	28
17 Lazio	27	-8	26
18 Livorno	27	-20	23
19 Atalanta	27	-16	22
20 Siena	27	-20	21

Napoli 1-3 Fiorentina
Catania 3-1 Inter Milan

LA LIGA

	P	GD	PTS
1 Real Madrid	25	47	62
2 Barcelona	25	45	62
3 Valencia	25	16	47
4 Sevilla	26	10	44
5 Mallorca	26	10	43
6 Deportivo	26	2	42
7 Athletic Bilbao	26	4	41
8 Getafe	26	2	36
9 Villarreal	25	-1	33
10 Sporting Gijon	26	-4	32
11 Atletico Madrid	25	0	31
12 Osasuna	25	-2	31
13 Almeria	25	-6	30
14 Espanyol	25	-14	28
15 Malaga	25	-2	27
16 Racing	25	-13	26
17 Real Zaragoza	25	-18	25
18 Valladolid	25	-17	20
19 Tenerife	25	-31	20
20 Xerez	25	-28	15

Getafe 3-0 Mallorca
Sevilla 1-1 Deportivo La Coruna
Sporting Gijon 0-0 Athletic Bilbao

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Joe Marston, icon and pioneer

The best player in the grand final of the A-League next week will be awarded the Marston Medal. The Professional Footballers Association's magazine is called The Marston. The first Australian to play in an F A Cup final was Joe Marston. He played 190 games for Preston North End and is captain of their team of the century. He captained Australia in four full and 20 other internationals and played in 35 international games, as well as a host of representative games against club sides for New South Wales. But who is the man behind these achievements and accolades?

He was born in Leichardt in Sydney in 1926 and was lucky to survive his childhood, as he fell off a jetty at the age of seven and was only rescued by a family friend who jumped off his motor bike and into the river fully clothed to save him. He learned to swim after that and later became a surf lifesaver. His father and elder brother were rugby league players, but young Joe developed an early interest in football and never lost it. He played at primary and technical school and at St Augustine's church team against local rivals All Saints from Petersham. When they were about to leave school at 14, the best players from each team combined and went down to the local senior club Leichardt-Annandale and convinced the officials that they needed a third grade side. Joe says five or six of that group went on to play for Australia. 'We were determined to make our mark and pushed each other to do so.' Off the field he had an apprenticeship as a hair drafter for a brush-making firm, a job he was to return to later.

Joe made his first team debut at 17 and very quickly became an integral part of the club, helping it to win the State League Cup in his first season in 1943, a feat repeated in 1948 and 1949. Senior players like Jack 'Digger' Evans and Jock Parkes helped guide the young Marston on his way. His form and composure attracted state and national selectors and he received his first full cap against South Africa in 1947, playing in all games in that five-match series in Sydney and Brisbane. The next year he toured New Zealand and was invited to tour Southern Africa in 1950, but by then his career had taken a new direction.

Percy Sewell, an Englishman with contacts in the leading clubs in the English League got Joe an offer from Preston North End. So in February 1950 Joe and his young wife Edith set off on a four-day journey by plane to England. Much to his surprise two of the directors of the club and their wives met them on arrival and there was a crowd to welcome them at Deepdale. Joe's first match was in a friendly game in Edinburgh against Heart of Midlothian and after several reserve and first team games at full back he got his chance at centre half when Harry Mattinson broke his leg. In a rugged baptism he came up against Tommy Lawton, then with Notts County, but kept the legendary scoreless.

Thus began a legendary Preston half back line of Tommy Docherty, Marston and Willie Forbes—two Scots wing halves and an Australian pivot. The star of that team was the incomparable winger Tom Finney, the Preston plumber. Joe led Preston back into the First Division in 1951 and within a decimal point of the First Division title in 1953 as Arsenal and Preston finished on 54 points. His talent was recognized by the Football League

and he was chosen for the English League team against the Scottish League at Hampden Park, where he played and roomed with the great Duncan Edwards of Manchester United, tragically killed in the Munich air crash in 1958.

During 1953 Joe and Edith planned to return home to Australia, but Preston persuaded them to stay for another year, and organized a fund-raiser to pay for the couple to have a holiday in Sydney during the English summer close-season. The first leg of the journey took them to London and the Preston directors took the couple to the Cup final at Wembley. This was what is remembered as the Matthews final, when Blackpool beat Bolton by four goals to three, and Stanley Matthews won his only F A Cup winners medal. As they were joining in the community singing with the packed crowd, Edith said, 'Wouldn't it be wonderful if you were playing here next year.' So it turned out as Joe led Preston to the Cup final against West Bromwich Albion in 1954. The fairy tale ended there because despite being hot favourites, Preston lost narrowly by 3–2.

On his return to Australia, Joe went back to his trade as a brush maker, but was quickly appointed captain of Australia for the series against South Africa in 1955. As a professional he was deemed ineligible to play for Australia



Joe and Edith Marston at home in 2008. Photo: Roy Hay.



Joe Marston (right) in a typical header to clear at Wentworth Park in the 1950s. Photo: Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

at the Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956, but he continued to turn out for Leichardt-Annandale and when it was taken over by the Italian community as APIA-Leichardt.

Long before his playing days were over

his leadership skills were recognized and he coached the national team against AS Roma and Manchester United among others. At club level he coached, Apia-Leichardt, Western Suburbs, Auburn and Sydney Olympic. He was inducted into the Australian Soccer Hall of Fame and



A classic tackle by Joe Marston for Australia against Blackpool's centre-forward, Ray Charnley, when the English club toured Australia in May 1958. Photo: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

was the first recipient of the Australian PFA's Alex Tobin medal.

Joe Marston was a hero of the short back and sides era. Proud of his achievements, but a modest and unassuming man, he is still involved as passionate follower and gentle critic of the game

and a supporter of the Central Coast Mariners.

An interview with Joe Marston is available on the National Library of Australia website at catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/4363528



MACKENZIE AT LARGE

An Occasional Offering from Craig MacKenzie

Southern Irish Stars to shine?

THERE'S a bold social experiment underway at Southern Stars, one that senior coach Dean Hennessy hopes will catapult the club back into the State One ranks it was dumped from last season.

The Turkish-backed outfit has seen an influx of Irish players who represented their country so successfully at the All Nations Cup at Knox in December, beating Scotland on penalties in the final.

While the annual tournament doesn't create much of a ripple in our mainstream media it was deemed important enough to feature on the Football Association of Ireland's official website, in fact the match report and photo of the triumphant Irish players (taken by ace sports photographer Darryl Kennedy) was still on the FAI website as we went to press.

The Irishmen already signed with Southern Stars are left back Sebastian Kenihan (from Eastern Lions), right back or midfielder Mark Hedderman, central defender Padraig Gollogley (ex-Larne FC and All Nations Player of the Tournament), right back or central defender Kieran Fitzgerald, midfielder Alan Mulcahy (from Bentleigh Greens), wide midfielder Noel Fox and striker Connor McArdle, who has been in impressive form during the pre-season.

But the mass exodus from the Emerald Isle doesn't stop there as Hennessy is talking to another Irish player and remains hopeful of signing him.

He's also keen to get young striker Adrian Chila to put pen to paper. Their connection goes back to Hennessy's stint as Kingston City boss. Chila had a fine season last year with Frankston Pines and had been training with Langwarrin recently.

Hennessy has retained a clutch of last season's players: sweeper Murat Caliskan, midfielder Berkan Sakaci, wide midfielder Craig Platten, utility Fatih Akdogan, striker Aziz Elbayeh, wide midfielder or striker Koray Suat, right back Mustafa Yenilmez and striker Murat Demirkol.

"Murat (Caliskan) is training regularly now which is something he's never been able to do. He's changed jobs now and I think we'll see an even better player this season," said Hennessy.

"Aziz has been looking good up front too. I know all these boys that I've retained from my previous stint at the club. I trust them to do a job for us and I know they can play."

In what is one of the larger player turn-overs in Victorian football this year (I think Heidelberg United holds the current record) Hennessy also has brought



It's like this lads. First we win the All Nations Cup then we win the championship with some mob called Southern Stars. Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY.

in goalkeeper Robbie Acs (from Bentleigh Greens), ex-Heidelberg and South Melbourne youth team player Halil Gur, midfielder Adam Rudzki (from Bentleigh Greens), brother Stefan (a striker from the Strikers, Peninsula that is) and 21-year-old Yasmin Sivic (ex-Richmond, Cranbourne and Heatherton United).

Now last year 'Deano' and I were at odds over the number of players he brought into his old club Bentleigh Greens so, for the record, my calculator came up with the number 12 this time with two (and maybe more) to be added.

With such an influx of talent expectations are high that Southern Stars can clinch the 2010 State Two South-East title.

"Yeah, definitely. I think the club learnt a lot from last year and we're very determined to do something about it," said Hennessy.

"It's a matter of getting everyone to gel and so far they've integrated brilliantly. I'm confident that if they blend well then we'll do well. We certainly won't be intimidated physically."

Things are moving off the field too. The City of Kingston council is talking about

upgrading the club's junior and training facility at Chadwick Reserve in Dingley and while the club's plan to again use Ross Reserve in Springvale is not set in stone at least the playing surface is in the best condition it has been in for years. Fingers crossed it stays that way.

Langy chases Thierry Boi
MAURITIAN international midfielder Thierry Boi was on Langwarrin's radar as we went to press.

If the State One club clinches his signature he'll link up with fellow Mauritian international Chris Driver, signed from Southern Stars.

Last year Boi strolled to the Provisional Two South-East championship with Dandenong Sparrows but is believed to be interested in a challenge in a higher league. Boi, Driver and former Dandenong Thunder star Colin Quirk were part of Southern Stars' formidable midfield set-up a couple of seasons ago.

Langy already has signed former Frankston Pines striker Matt Durand, who has spent some years in the US, defender Danny Black (ex-Pines and Richmond), wide right youngster Chris-

tian Kustura (from Dandy Thunder) and teenage defender Joe Donaghy from Peninsula Strikers.

The club also recently clinched the signature of utility player Ray Markley from Heidelberg United. Markley is quick, has a fine first touch and excellent disposal and was recommended by former Socceroo legend Jimmy Rooney. Utility player Karl Cochrane and wife Angela were involved in a car crash two Saturdays back and had to be hospitalised. Cochrane suffered a broken bone in his hand while his wife fared worse and is recovering from a cracked sternum. Cochrane turned 40 on 25 January but his hopes of creating an age record in Division One will have to be put on hold as current Northcote coach Peter Tsolakis was 41 when he last played at that level with the John Cain Reserve outfit in 2006.

There has been a major player turnover at Langwarrin this year. From the first team squad that kicked off the 2009 season there have been 10 departures: Adam and Thomas Ahmadzai, Adam Poole, Bailey Wright, Cameron Leopold, Dave Breslin, Lirim Rasimi, Rados

Tomic, Shane Tagliaferro and Simon O'Donnell.

The squad is not settled yet and more changes are expected.

Langwarrin has never won its opening match in Division One and this season coach Gus Macleod and his men square up to old foe Western Suburbs in a round one encounter at Lawton Park. Langwarrin has opened its five seasons in State One with three draws and two losses.

Heart's cardiac arrhythmia

MELBOURNE Heart may already have reached a fork in the road on its journey towards its inaugural A-League season.

The Peter Sidwell-led consortium would appear to have three priorities at the minute: finding a home, new sponsors and developing a membership base. Which is understandable given the need to develop into a viable concern but these priorities now seem to override what was at the core of its submission to Football Federation Australia when successfully applying for an A-League licence – the concept of being a community club.

Rightly or wrongly Heart still believes that this is an area in which its main Melbourne competitor, Victory, has dragged its heels yet the financial demands of its establishment costs may have redirected its energies.

Canadian-born former Dutch international John van't Schip is the highest paid coach in the A-League. By a considerable margin. Then there's the cost of his assistants, former Manchester United and Danish star Jesper Olsen and former Socceroo Ante Milicic.

When you consider that former AFL administrative and marketing stars, Scott Munn and Brad Rowse respectively, did not come cheaply, not to mention football operations manager John Didulica, then you start to grasp the enormous financial commitment already in place.

And the club's football department still has significant outlays to make on personnel.

I wouldn't be surprised if some board members were taken aback at what was required to secure their preferred candidates in senior roles.

While it's likely that onfield success will be closely tied to the quality of overseas players that van't Schip can lure it's the offfield murmurs that are immediate cause for concern.

I understand that all board members now have to have an equity stake in the franchise which is keen to add to its board numbers. Talks to that end are underway as I write.



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KAT'S CORNER

With Peter Katholos

THE 4-3-3 SYSTEM

So are coaches going to follow the FFA direction with our elite youngsters, and the burning question is, do they know what it means and how to implement it?

Our national director of coaching Mr. Han Berger quotes:

"It enables players to play out from the back, it gives them a tactical flexibility and it provides them with more passing options and it has every chance of producing creative No 10s which Australia lacks at the moment."

Well said, Han Berger! We severely lack the playmakers and the creative players, so if we need to produce them, why do we starve them of the ball so much?

How many coaches at club level are actually following our national curriculum?

I went out watching young elite player's games and some of the coaches I

saw taking the sessions absolutely had no idea. My advice to them is to give the game away, as although you are well intended, you are actually a burden on Australia's future. Unless you understand and believe in such system don't bother!

Maybe the FFA needs to run refresher courses on how to play the 4-3-3 system, and I highly recommend that notion to be implemented.

As a former playmaker, let me explain to you the role of the no 10, since some of you just don't seem to understand. Playing from the back, if the left or right fullback receives the ball, then his first ideal option is to look to play to his central midfield player. Why? Because that is the pivotal midfield position and that is where we want the ball to be fed, so as our strikers coming into play can receive the ball, and then turn to look up for further available options – perhaps either a through ball, or to play a wall pass, or beat defender in order to have a shot at

goal. If the playmaker is not available, then we would prefer to look at the mid-field player in front as the second option and if that passage of play is not on, then we look back to the sweeper to start again, in order to keep possession and create space. In the meantime, the midfielders are always moving and looking to lose their marker and be prepared to receive the ball.

The important thing to remember is that the first option from any player playing from the back is to look to play the ball through the playmaker. I repeat, to the playmaker, meaning the no 10, the person your team relies on to make things happen

At no time should you bypass the mid-field, unless that is your last option. Now, if you don't give it to your midfield players and instead decide to bypass them, then the system will fail to work. Players will soon become frustrated and above all, the pattern of play is lost. Get it!

Australian international with 25 caps, Australian Player of the Year, winner of 4 NSL championships, 3 NSL Cups, 557 first grade games, 97 goals from 1976-1996. Played for St George, Sydney Olympic, Apia, Marconi, Melita Eagles and Larissa (Greece). Rated as one of the most technically gifted players ever produced in Australia. Now involved with player development and player management. www.technikfootball.com

John Aloisi

John has been a good player in Europe and for the Socceroos, but since he has come back to Australia and played for Sydney FC he has not exactly set the world on fire. He has of course had his fair share of injury issues, but even still, in my opinion, he has struggled to find his former form. I recall going to a game last season and the fans were actually booing him. I really felt for him that day, and although he looks hungry and keen to get his mojo back, time is running against him to be included in the Socceroo set-up for South Africa. It's a shame the clock is ticking too fast forward for him because on his day we've all seen the damage he can do.

Unfortunately, it appears that age and the toll of injuries means that John has lost that extra edge of pace over the initial five metre spurt - something of which he can probably get away with in the A-League, but certainly not on a World Cup

stage. John, if you want to continue playing as a striker then you know yourself you must be fitter and faster to compete against some of these quick defenders. And it's funny how the older you get, the quicker these defenders become!



Can't bat, can't bowl, can't run anymore either. John Aloisi hopes to prove his critics wrong.

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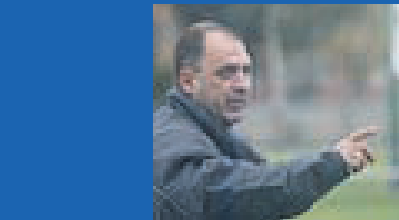
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THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas

ERNIE'S boys saluted the judge in Sydney and will now await the winner of Sydney FC and Wellington Phoenix, to see who will take out the coveted Grand Final.

Man of the Match goes to Foxtel's Andy Harper, who described Kruse's cracker of a Goal as "Beautiful, Beautiful, Beautiful, Beautiful, Beautiful".

I was very tempted to order Harps some Nasal Spray Technology, but could not get through as it was a Sunday.

Harps, the definition of Beautiful X 5 is a 3.5 Litre Bottle of J Walker, preferably on a stand, making pouring much easier.

Over to the National Team we go, where mystery surrounds Socceroos Pim Verbeek's plans after the World Cup Finals.

Many punters didn't seem to be concerned as they find his brand of Football about

as exciting as watching paint dry, will be interesting to see though what effect this announcement will have on the Socceroos performance at the Finals, and who will replace him, should he decide to leave.

One thing is for certain though, the FFA Powerbrokers will concentrate their search around the part of the World where Clogs are part of this Country's national dress.

The good folk at the House of Darebin, recently relocated to the Boulevard of Broken Dreams, have done a mighty job with their web Site.

It contains plenty of useful information and now even features live broadcasts of VPL matches.

Manufacturers of Shin Guards, ones that actually are large enough to protect a players entire leg, have struck a very big Happy End as the Men in Black have

been instructed by the good folk at the FFV to not allow any player to take the field wearing shin guards that resemble the size of a WN Field Packet.

This will no doubt cause some grief to some pop star players for 2 reasons. Firstly because their thinking is the smallest the shin guard the more of a pop star they are.

Secondly, and more importantly, they will have \$50 less to spend on their next pair of G Star Jeans, this \$50 will go towards buying proper shin guards that the Men in Black will be happy with.

I usually don't look forward to receiving any letters from the House of Darebin, now relocated to the Boulevard of Broken Dreams, as they usually contain an invitation to attend a Tribunal hearing.

And let me tell you, I have attended my fair share over the years, both as a

Player, and as a Club Powerbroker representing many pop stars who have been sent off by the Men in Black.

The exception to this rule though is a week before the VPL Kicks, as around this time, FFV Media Passes are mailed out.

It seems that somebody took a fancy to the envelope that contained my Media Pass, as all that I found in my Letter Box was an FFV Envelope that had been torn open, with one Media Pass being MIA. Believe it or not....

Until next week
This is Katsa- just as you have known him.

And remember, keep your friends close and your Club Powerbrokers closer.



A collection of shin-pads in the boot-room this week...



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BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric



I bet no one ever compared Sydney FC striker Chris Payne to Thierry Henry before this weekend. Just like Tiger Woods, he loves to cheat.

In it's short history, that's a second time a major A-League final as been marred by a handball goal. Having seen Liam Reddy sent-off for swinging punches at opponents in the past, referee Peter Green was lucky he didn't do a Danny Vuckovic when the Central Coast Mariners fell victim to a controversial goal by the Newcastle Jets in a Grand Final. With the exception of Srebre Dolevski, the A-League referees get about as much respect as dodgy insulation installers.

There must almost be a case made for Etihad Stadium to be made the permanent home of the HAL Grand Final. Melbourne Victory have made sure it has been played there more often than not. Shame that the ground surface will be poor. But it is at most A-League grounds anyway.

It's the Grand Final everyone wanted,

Melbourne v Sydney. Just like in the hooligan movies when West Ham draw Millwall in the Cup. But will there be as much trouble? Will the keyboard warriors be throwing their keyboards through pub windows again?

As well as Victory do on the local front, they still seem to be as ineffective as anti-child labour laws in most of Asia. Two losses to start their campaign will make qualification for the next phase difficult.

Adelaide United, on the other hand, have started the Asian Champions League with two wins. They have taken that wooden spoon they picked up for finishing bottom of the A-League and started spanking Asian teams with it.

Locally, you could say the VPL ladder was pretty tight after the first two rounds, more so if some of the teams hadn't started the season with points deducted. Hume City have made light of their handicap, how often would the only team which had won all it's games not be top of the ladder?



Give the man a hand! Supersub Chris Payne paid handsome dividends after coming off the bench to notch a brace and hand SFC a Grand Final berth.

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KRNCEVIC'S CRUNCHLINES

With Eddie Krncevic

Greetings football fans and welcome to another dose of Krncevic's Crunchlines.

Where's the love?

It's been another exciting week of football around the globe, with action aplenty pleasing the football appetite, from the Champions League to Hyundai A-League finals series and right down to our very own Premier Leagues around the country.

So far, the Victorian and New South Wales competitions have already got the show on the road and now it's the turn of Tasmania, Western Australian and South Australian to follow suit this week. Queensland kicks-off the following week.

It's great to see the leagues in full swing and perhaps we may even see another star rise from their ranks. Adelaide United's Matthew Leckie was playing at Bulleen only a short time ago, and now look at how high he's flying now, scoring another goal in the Asian Champions League during the week.

I actually attended a Victorian Premier League game last weekend to watch two teams who are considered serious championship contenders, even at this early stage of the season. Well, to be honest, I left the ground after the final whistle was blown wondering what on earth these two sides must have been doing with themselves all pre-season. The

game was in fact a disappointment, with no obvious patterns of play or shape of any description. The approach play and attitudes of the players also left a lot to be desired. Channel 31's new Extra Time Show on Wednesday night at 8pm, basically did us all a massive favour and only showed the highlights, because the rest of the 86 minutes of the match was beyond substandard, and I found myself feeling sorry for the editor who would have had to sift through the tape that was a lame excuse for a football match.

I couldn't help but think to myself on the drive home, how serious are some of these players about making a decent go of the competition? How genuine are some of these players about their ambition to be top footballers? Sure, the prize money may be nothing to shout about, but where's the passion, commitment and drive, that should be there for all to see.

I think many people in the local football world actually take the Premier Leagues for granted, but in my opinion they are the final and critical stepping stone that links the junior development pathway and getting a taste of senior football before getting that crack at the A-League. Last Tuesday night in Melbourne Victory's 0-2 loss to Korean outfit, Seongnam Ilwha, who scored the opening goal of the match? None other than Sas Ognenovski – the same strapping centre-half who once upon a time thwarted many a forward in the VPL for Fawknar, before

getting his chance to move to Brisbane Roar. Who was in goal for Victory? Mitch Langerak – the young custodian who got a taste of action between the sticks at South Melbourne in the VPL before eventually getting the nod over Glen Moss.

My point in all of this is that, the respective Australian Premier Leagues of this world are a lot more important than we give them credit for. For coaches and players alike, this is where you can really make it happen for yourself. Learn the tricks of the trade here before you hit the big time. We've all got to start somewhere, so make the most of it while you can, because you never know who just may be watching.

No joy for Joel

I was quite surprised that Joel Griffiths was not selected in the Socceroos squad recently. He's been ripping it up in China lately and even showed his class by scoring the winner against Melbourne Victory in a recent ACL clash. Poor Victory must be sick to death of expats scoring against them lately. But still, why wasn't a player of the calibre of Griffiths included in the squad? You can probably include Ryan Griffiths in that equation as well. Who is responsible in the national selection panel for the non-selection of some of these quality players?



Shoot for the stars and you might just hit the moon:

Mitch Langerak (South Melb) and big Sash Ognenovski (Fawknar) in action during their VPL days - aeons before strutting their stuff in the bright lights of the ACL.

Talking Italian

I managed to watch SBS's broadcast of Fulham and Juventus the other morning in the Europa League, and was slightly taken aback by some of Francis Awaritefe's comments after the match, regarding Italian football. In my opinion, Francis needs to be careful he doesn't offend the many Italian fans in this country by putting them down. Best be advised to keep his comments pro-

fessional and measured, and not be so biased towards the English game. Sure, the English game is alive and kicking at the moment, Manchester United's and Arsenal's Champions League exploits testimony to that, but the Italian league is still producing world class players and last time I checked, the Italians were still reigning World Cup champions. And incidentally, Juve beat Fulham, 3-1.



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WAG OF THE WEEK



Edita Hortova Age: 24
Insignificant Other: Galatasaray Striker, Milan Baroš.

TSIGAN'S TSIGAR

With Mike Lilikakis

Tsigan Rolls One Up!



DISCLAIM HER:
Just a quick one regarding the above-mentioned disclaimer...THIS IS NOT A FOOTBALL PIECE. If you want to read about football, you have 20 or so pages to peruse at your own leisure, wrestling with the thoughts of many an expert football writer intent on selling you a piece of their expert mind at a buck a pop, or if you're lucky, you get a dab of their Wizz Fizz. Here at Tsigan UTD (pty ltd) we are intent on contending for whats left of, what was formerly known as your soul. We don't need your brain. You can keep it. Fill it with all the drivel that your sponge can bob. Just give us your soul...and perhaps a fiver, I'll pay you back next Wednesday, or Christmas, I swear. Reality is a very persistent illusion.

SAME 'OLE SAME HOLE
In this day and age of totally stupifying, bizarre antics which couple with brainless demarcation between few and far between...is it any or little wonder why monkey see and doggie doo doo?
Is it difficult to comprehend why people in general still feel a dying need to be someone else? Examples are myriad. Musicians, footballers, actors, and plebs all round this daft punk world want to emulate their idle idols. Examples exemplified thus. Fashion is called style, when in reality, fashion is a form of ugliness so bad and intolerable, that we have to alter it every six months.
You don't need proof to know that a cup of cement won't harden you up, it'll just kill you. The same goes for bleach. Great on making whites white, but terrible on your stomach, liver and overall

living situation. So why is it no surprise that people have little to talk about other than the same ole, same hole? Familiarity breeds contempt, and children. I should know. I don't watch TV and have 4 children (that I know of) to prove it. Yes, I miss SBS, but its not that I don't like TV. I just enjoy the sex a little more. What? No, this is not a childrens programme, and if it was, you would be pausing it about now to see if they were real or fake. You disgusting perv. Read on at your own peril, or turn to page 45 to see if you get stuck in the closet with your least favorite uncle, who smells like Vodka Toothpaste.

THE BOSS
I can't speak for any of you, although I would like to know your bank details and how to help relieve you of those ridiculous entrapments which are obviously burdening you beyond belief.
My one regret in life, is that I'm not someone else. Right about now, I'm sure as shank that you're wishing you never started reading this piece, because its either arousing your intellect, or making the crab itch. I'm not young enough to know everything, but I'm rather glad that I can be totally obscene and not heard. How's that for lovemaking. A great mate of mine who hasn't spoken to me for at least a decade, told me last night that his philosophy on religion is that it doesn't matter what religion you belong to, or even what your beliefs are; as long as he is right and you're wrong.
If only you could find a girlfriend with similar values. Hang on. They're called wives. I suppose bigamy is crazy because of the obvious fact is that you have one wife too many. Monogamy is pretty much the same, unless you're married



to my wife, and you're thankful that a chick as gorgeous and intelligent as she is, can be blind, deaf and mute. In my house, I'm the boss. My wife is just the decision maker.

'GUV ERR MEANT
Many a thing could be mentioned about Kevin007 and his Jetstar ways, miss manage meant, spendathons and cash cow milkings; but lets face it, what else is a government supposed to do but destroy hope for the hopeless and diss the illusions of nutcrackers in their suites?
Face it, a government that is large enough to supply you with everything you need, is large enough to take everything you have. Politics truly is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and then applying the wrong remedies. Personally I'd rather be right, that be politically correct. I mean, spreading democracy through war is like spreading virginity through rape.

CABBAGE ROLLS
Man, I sure do miss a good wog cookout. Being on the Central Coast has many perks other than what gawps you at the beach. Great fishing, unreal surf, superb scenery and a fandabidozy laid back attitude which smegs of the last bastion of Ozzie "owzitgarnmaate."
The only drawback is, unlike Melbourne, there aren't many proper wog eateries. You can't just jump in the car and cruise down the freeways, or highways out to Lygon Street or Brunswick Road and pog out on some wog cuisine. I ordered a Caesar Salad last week and received an abomination cocktail with pus. Still, at least the people are laid back. They make great speedhumps. I asked what one of the locals was doing, just lying there staring up at the sky. He replied that everyone is in the gutter, but only a few of us are looking at the stars. Profound words of rich wisdom from the stoned, bold and beautiful. What was he doing in the gutter? I suppose the same thing I'm doing at College at my tender age of 52.
Lots of people these days have a B.A,

M.D or Ph.D...but like me, they don't have a J.O.B; so, I'd rather be studying for the next 16-20 years, write a few thesisisisaurases and publish books which no one in their right or left mind would read or poke with a ten foot pike pole. Hard work never killed anybody, but why take the chance? Amen.

SKITZ and FRENIC
As you have finally pieced together; I've made your coffee go cold, your fag has turned to ash and your lively brain is now rather indolent.
If you have agreed with anything I have written, then chances are you're wrong. Giving up smoking is easy, trust me I've done it hundreds of times. A football fan is only a fanatic if they can't change their mind, or won't change the subject. Other than that, they're fine if at home alone and in the closet stroking pelt. Two things you can bank on, the expanse of the universe and human incompetence. Trust me, artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
The only real wisdom is in knowing that we know nothing. A wise man doesn't need advice and a dumb ass won't take it. If college has taught me anything, and it hasn't; its that you always have to be ready and willing to learn and be challenged. Its quite the obstacle if one doesn't like to be taught. So, you dish-water drinking football freaks, adieu to you and you and you and remember the Motto of EMOVILLE, "AIM LOW, REACH YOUR GOALS, AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT."
Yours insincerely;
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FULL NAME: Gianni De Nittis
BIRTHPLACE: Melbourne, Australia
BIRTH DATE: 18th of June 1986
HEIGHT: 183cm
WEIGHT: 75kg
MARRIED: No
CAR: Unfortunately a Holden Barina Sedan
NICKNAME: I've had people call me Versace
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Keilor Park, Thomastown
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Victorian State Team U13, 14 & 15, Australian U19 Schoolboys, 2009 VPL Victorian State Team
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Roberto Baggio
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: David Beckham
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Mitch Langerak because he was part of our squad at South Melbourne
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Paul Trimboli
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Harry Kewell
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: 2006



PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

VPL Grand Final
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: 94 World Cup Final
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: 2006 VPL Grand Final winning goal
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Breaking windows with my brother at the age of 6
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Being in the change rooms with Dean Anastasiadis
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Nothing disappointing about playing the game I love
WORST INJURY: Osteitis Pubis
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Altona Magic
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Melbourne Knights
SUPERSTITIONS: Right boot must be placed in front of left boot
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Pasta and plenty of fluids
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Ball control, passing, dribbling
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Bad temper at times
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Juventus
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Cricket, golf, AFL and most other sports

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Chris Judd
FAVOURITE FOODS: Pasta, Chicken and desserts
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Will Smith
HOBBIES: Golf, drawing, going out with friends
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Sari Beach Hotel, Bali
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Wherever there is good company
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Big Bang Theory, Two and a Half Men, Family Guy and Entourage
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Currently listening to Arctic Monkeys new album, and love Prince
FAVOURITE FILM: Avatar 3D
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Italy's 94 World Cup shirt
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Jeff Olver & My Family
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Listening to our captain Rama!
FOOTBALL AMBITION: Playing at a professional level
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?: David Beckham
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: Melbourne Victory

South Melbourne FC

Gianni De Nittis



White Knights in disguise as Red Devils?

By Leroy Robinson

THERE were reports on Wednesday that as United fans stuck up banners stating 'Love United – Hate Glazer' Avram Glazer could be seen laughing as the chants against his family got louder. It's hardly the act of someone concerned about fan reaction or press headlines.

Yet saying this, David Beckham's return to Manchester with AC Milan made more headlines for what he did after the game than what he did in his equivalent of a pit stop on the Old Trafford pitch. The post script to a one-sided affair saw Becks don a green and gold scarf, a symbol of support for the campaign by supporters to get rid of the Glazer family, and the colours of Newton Heath before they became Manchester United.

His post-match reasoning that he just wanted to don a scarf thrown from the stands and did not know its implications was tenuous at best, especially as he described himself afterwards as a United fan - yet this is an irrelevant addendum to what may have been a pivotal week for Manchester United.

In a week where the campaign against the Glazers was stepped up with not only a useful piece of PR from the AC Milan sub but also with the news the Nomura Investment Banking Group agreed to advise the Red Knights regarding the possible acquisition of United, it has now become time to take the RK seriously.

But are the Red Knights the answer for United?

Let's get one thing straight; the Glazers are not fans of Manchester United, heck, they aren't even football fans. Yet since when has owning a club been reliant on whether you support the club? Is Randy Lerner an Aston Villa fan? Is Abramovich a Chelsea fan? Be honest with yourselves blues fans!

This is one of the beefs against the Glazers and a rather insipid and naively romantic argument. This is not to knock the United fans. They have every right to protest for whatever reasons. Aside from not being real fans their gripe with the Glazers appears to be multi-faceted; massive debts used to buy the club, the fact that they are only in it for the money and of course the jacked up season ticket prices and the building of more hospitality boxes at United to cater for the "champagne and caviar crowd" – i.e. not "real" football fans.

The family haven't helped. They have been mute to the protests and as far as I am aware they haven't given any press conferences to explain to fans what



The iconic 'Golden Balls' displayed a golden touch last week and showed an affinity with the Old Trafford faithful; something of which their American owners would struggle to understand.

their vision is for the club or even offered to meet the fans. They have kept their distance, appointing Chief Executive David Gill as their mouthpiece, and this enforced silence has irked some fans to such an extent that Malcolm Glazer could get United's club badge tattooed on each buttock and it wouldn't win them over.

Despite the froth and bubble of some fans are the Glazers actually good for United?

The announcement of a 5-year deal to partner Telekom Malaysia to become an 'Integrated Telecommunications Partner' has gone largely unnoticed, as has the strategy of the Glazers to focus on individual territories rather than the global market. From the Glazer's viewpoint it is irrelevant whether the fans like them or not as long as the team keeps winning and the fans sell out the stadium and buy the merchandise to help service the debt.

On the subject of debt, according to the latest accounts to end of June 2009 United owed £509 million to international banks. They paid this back through a £500million bond issue in January of this year, something else which riled the fans.

Not to be too technical about this but the long and short of it is that the club now have more financial freedom. The bond does not have to be paid in full until 2017 and they are free of the tight restrictions placed upon them by the international banks. Free to concentrate on paying the annual interest (£45m) on the bonds and shaving some of their personal borrowing (£200million) The Glazers used to buy the club.

If I'm the Glazers I look to use United to pay off much of the personal debt and sell the club before the £500million loan matures so it becomes someone else's problem. The trouble is the club made a profit of just £6.4million (they sold CR7 for £80million) last year so it's hard to see the Glazer's being able to significantly pay any of their personal debt let alone the interest. God help them if they fail to qualify for the UCL or if success on the pitch dries up - the ability to pay the loans is based on the assumption they'll qualify for the UCL year in, year out. I also expect naming rights to be granted sometime in the future for OT, netting about £100-£150million - if Arsenal's deal is a barometer.

Who are these Red Knights and how are they going to pay the

£1bn plus for United and why do they want to buy?

The Red Knights are a consortium of business people who it is said are also United fans. How much of this is true is unclear. What we do know is that they are liaising with the Manchester United Supporters Trust to try and bring about a change of ownership through boycotting merchandise, amongst other things.

Don't know about you but to me this tactic is rather too seedy for my liking. No matter how much you want to oust the Glazers can you really trust a consortium that asks fans to do this? Part of me thinks they may be taking advantage of the fans desperation for change; fans are known to lead with their emotions rather than their brains. Also, if the measures work the club is worth less, meaning the RK can buy it for less. Do they have the fans best interests at heart or their own?

The Red Knights includes an economist from Goldman Sachs - Jim O'Neill - lawyer Mark Rawlinson and financier Keith Harris. Ideally they would like to get thousands of supporters around the world to each put a stake into the club - to create a democratic club. They may have to stump up over a £1bn so they'll need all over United's supposed 100million fan base; testimony United is now

a global brand first and a football team second.

The thing to watch out for if they bought the club is who the main shareholder is. Fans don't invest for a return but businessmen do and if one or more is in control at United who knows what direction the club will be headed in - especially if the majority shareholder has used debt to finance a takeover.

What do they need to do to succeed?

Aside from putting in an offer that can't be refused they'll need to mobilise the United supporters to step up protests. As well as this they'll need to hit United in the financial equivalent of the cahonas - corporate hospitality. Persuading these people not to renew their boxes would be a major blow to the income of the Glazer family and affect repayment of the debt interest. It's a long shot because the club is still successful and who wouldn't want a box right now?

If the fans were as serious as they should be they'd boycott games and not renew season tickets. In a place like Italy they would on principle have mobilised support and boycotted the team en masse. OT would resemble a nudist beach in winter. But it doesn't happen here. You can say fans are too loyal or they lack backbone or are scared that if they don't renew season tickets someone else will get theirs. With change sometimes comes pain.

The fans have to realise that if they want change they can make it happen only by cutting off the clubs oxygen supply - money. There was talk of fans turning up 10 minutes late for the game against Milan on Wednesday but it didn't happen. If they can't manage that then they can forget a boycott. For United's foreign fans OT is a tourist destination and others closer to home don't care who owns the club as long as the team produce on the pitch. So for all the green and gold scarves the overall colour on Wednesday was still red; which brings us back to the Red Knights.

As long as the fans turn up and United keep winning my gut tells me the Knights will fall on their sword, so their only hope is to put in a vast offer for the club and hope the Glazers accept. United fans can wear all the green and gold scarves they want but whatever happens I feel it's Avram Glazer who will be laughing all the way to bank.

Sources: www.skysports.com
www.timesonline.co.uk
www.bbc sport.co.uk



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With Adam North

Can things get any worse for Liverpool?

By Adam North

AFTER yet another poor performance away from home in the league, Liverpool look to be on the brink of failing to achieve a top four finish in England, and with that an omission from next season's UEFA Champions League. If this is the case, what will it mean for Liverpool football club, and for their under pressure manager Rafa Benitez?

It's been a tough season for the second biggest club in England. Poor league results have the team currently lying outside the top four in the Premier League, and to make things worse they suffered early exits from both the League and the FA Cup. In fact in the latter they lost to Reading, a team placed outside the top English league. And perhaps worst of all for the former European Cup winners was an exit out of the Champions League at just the group stage. Liverpool do still have a chance of silverware in the Europa League, but with all due respect to that competition, it's little more than a small consolation to such a big club.

And what should be getting Liverpool fans so upset with their season is that it's not just the results which have been bad, it's also the performances. Away defeats to teams like Portsmouth and Wigan are bad enough, but Liverpool's performances against these teams were little short of pitiful. I would say that they performed like a Championship side in the Premier League, but that would be an insult to those teams plying their trade in England's second division. They have been lacking any bite up front, they have had no creativity, and their defending, especially from set pieces, is all over the place.

Of course, Liverpool fans can point to a win over their most bitter of rivals Manchester United, but that simply is not good enough. Surely you would take away wins at Wigan, Sunderland and Portsmouth over a win against United? Well I know I'd rather take nine points than just three.

Perhaps the most worrying thing for Liverpool fans, at least in the league, is simply how far away they are from the league's top three. They have already lost nine games this season, seven away from home. The main problem is not that they aren't at the top; it's that they are still fifteen points behind the league leaders in what has been a rather poor season for the top teams in terms of winning and losing games. Had United or Chelsea won more games, as they have done in the last few seasons, then Liverpool could potentially be over twenty points away from the league's summit.

Liverpool are still only one point out of a Champions League place, yet the teams around them all have gamers in hand over the Reds. And I'm sorry to say that in reality Liverpool are more likely to slip behind mid table teams such as Everton and Birmingham than to catch Arsenal or Chelsea.

And, as I suggested would be the case two weeks ago, they are in very serious danger of not qualifying for the Champions League. If this happens, which I believe it will, Liverpool will be without the monetary bonus that comes with qualification for Europe's top competition. A lack of top European football could also make some of Liverpool's stars rethink their place at Anfield. And if we believe what some tell us, Liverpool do not exactly have bulging wallets, which could force some of their top performers out of the door.



Calm down, calm down! Looks like Rafa Benitez will steer Liverpool to the dizzy heights of Inter-Toto Cup football next year, even though it was abolished in 2008. Johnstone's Paint Trophy, anyone?

But why has the season gone so badly for the Reds? Liverpool fans, and of course the manager, will point to a lack of funds as to why they are in the situation they're in. Or they could mention that they have had a certain amount of sustained injuries to key men as to why they continue to under perform. But these are little more than smokescreens that should not be accepted as reasons as to their poor season. Rafa has spent much more money in his time at Anfield than Arsene Wenger has spent at Arsenal in the same time, and their city rivals Everton have had much more serious injury problems yet they still impress with their dogged, hard-working, over-

achieving league performances.

Liverpool's main problem as I see it, and as I have said on more than one occasions in this very column, is their manager Rafa Benitez. Apparently I can't get enough of beating the dead horse that is Rafa's time at Liverpool. I have never been impressed with his signings or his tactics, and his career has been saved more than once by Steven Gerrard, a man who was already at the club he now manages when he arrived, and who he wasn't a million miles away from selling to Chelsea not too long ago. Had he not won the Champions League and the FA Cup, which by rights he was lucky to do, he would not be manager of Liverpool in

2010, it's that simple. And it's my opinion that if the club continues under his tutelage then they will not win the English Premier League anytime soon.

One of the more laughable quotes from Benitez this season is that they cannot compete as they do not have the same bank balance as United and Chelsea. Yet even if he did have more money he would waste it, as he has done in previous seasons. The roll call of players he has brought into Anfield, to little or no success, it's long indeed. Liverpool right now are struggling up front, all because Torres is unfit and in bad form. Earlier in the season Rafa suggested that his options were good up front, but that seems to be a little white lie, as without the Spaniard Liverpool look toothless in attack. Perhaps Benitez was thinking about all the attackers he has signed since being manager at the club. Crouch, Bellamy, Keane, Voronin, Robbie Fowler, Krisztian Nemeth, Luis Garcia, Ryan Babel and David N'Gog, to name a few.

I do concede that Rafa has not been a complete disaster, and of course he was in much part responsible for Liverpool's Champions League success. Yet in the true test of a side, their domestic league, Benitez has failed to bring Liverpool any success. And it looks like their best chance under his guidance, last season, is about to be followed by a season in which they fail to qualify for Europe's top competition.

Liverpool fans are to be commended for standing by their manager, for the most part, which is somewhat of a rarity these days. But I think that Rafa Benitez has had enough time at the club without a league trophy, and so perhaps it's time for this partnership of Liverpool and the sometimes goateed Spaniard to come to an end.

IN OFF THE POST



Got something to say? Drop us a line and get it off your chest. Best letter wins double movie pass to Palace Cinemas.

mailbag@goalweekly.com

As a neutral I had to laugh at the South fans chanting 'fuck off Northcote' when Trent Rixon celebrated in front of Clarendon Corner. Gosh, surely the fans of Australia's greatest, most famous and most successful club wouldn't lower themselves to chanting about Northcote City? I mean Northcote are just a small VPL club with a tiny fanbase. Oh wait, so are South Melbourne.

Nu Football fan, Carlton

Wasn't it nice to see 32,000 fans turn out to see Wellington give it to the Jets? Taking into account the population of their city, that's roughly equivalent to 400,000 turning out to watch Sydney FC take on the Phoenix. Which is roughly 390,000 more than the actual turn out according to the official figures. Did they fail to count all those fans who turned up dressed as plastic seats?

Uncrowded House, Balacava

Was amused at Mark Boric picking out Andy Harper and Michael Cockerill as the worst of the Fox commentators. If there's not enough pages in GW to explain why these two are rubbish then I'd imagine it'd take an Old Testament sized tome to deconstruct Robbie Slater's 'analytical' efforts. Never has one man been paid money to talk about a subject while actually saying so remarkably little. Thank God for the arrival of Bozza on our screens, because one more night of the Robbie Slater/Dermott Reeve(he's English, so he must know about football right?) double-act would have made me die a little bit inside.

Slater Hater, Mordialloc

Looks as though the Fury might have some white knight investors in the NT government willing to save their club if they play a couple of 'home'

matches in Darwin. Ironic, as it's a natural selection in the business sense that's threatening to wipe them out. Can we please stop adding new clubs to the league before they're viable? Both the Fury and their washed up Liverpoolian striker are testament to the perils of rapid expansion.

Bring back Collingwood Warriors while we're at it, Collingwood

Don't the A-League finals totally capture the spirit and the romance of cup football? I mean it warmed my heart to see a team of battlers like the Victory come to visit the number 1 ranked team in Australia and snatch a result the way they did. They should all be so proud of themselves! Of course it won't change the fact that we finished top of the league, and are therefore better than them, and every other team in Australia. But hey, isn't that just the magic of a cup com-

petition? What a thrill it must have been for them to have the chance win a plucky tie against Australia's best and most glamorous club!

Premiers > Champions, Bonnyrigg

So Ben Buckley thinks Victory should stop whingeing about its scheduling and 'just play the games'? Nice one Mr.Buckley. Note that Seongnam had a 9 day break because their FA kindly postponed a league match. Think about that for a second. Also think about where your league would be if its flagship club wasn't around to make the whole enterprise look slightly less shamolic. And then having thought about that, please think seriously about handing in your resignation.

Buckley's chance, Kilsyth

Let me just issue a well-directed LOL at Liverpool's season. After successfully bottling it against Wigan they're more or less favou-

rites to finish 7th. And a further LOL at all the bitter scousers claiming a lack of money as the cause of 'Pool's woes. You'd have a point if your manager hadn't spent the GDP of Guadelope on a midfielder he doesn't actually want to play.

Tom Hicks No.1 Fan, Coogee



Jet Stars? A Victory fan gets a taste of ACL glamour last week.



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Anfield
Tuesday 7:00AM AEDT



The Reds slumped to another embarrassing loss last week, going down 1-0 at Wigan.

Portsmouth look doomed to relegation but they knocked off Liverpool 2-0 the first time around.

Pompey is playing with great heart but have a few injury concerns in an already underqualified squad.

Hard to take Liverpool at 1.29. Consider over 2.5 goals at 1.65 Sportingbet in a multi.

MATCH ODDS	
Liverpool:	1.29 betfair
Draw:	6.20 betfair
Portsmouth:	14.5 betfair

GREEK TRAGEDY IN BORDEAUX

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



Champions League
Bordeaux v Olympiakos
Stade Chaban-Delmas,
Bordeaux (FRA)
Thursday 6:45 AEDT



Bordeaux have won all three home games in this season's competition, conceding just a single. Visitors Olympiakos will have to pull out all the stops to turn around their first-leg loss.

Bordeaux were the most successful side in the group stage with five wins and a draw. The only points dropped came in a 1-1 draw at Juventus on Matchday 1 while two goals conceded was also the best record of the 32 competing teams.

Bordeaux don't concede many at home and should be too strong for Olympiakos. Take Bordeaux to win 1.59 in a multi.

MATCH ODDS	
Bordeaux:	1.59 betfair
Draw:	3.95 betfair
Olympiakos:	6.80 betfair



NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE



NRL
West's Tigers v Sea Eagles
SFS
Monday 7:00PM AEDT



With number-one player Benji Marshall locked in for life (he signed a four-year contract extension last month) the Tigers can now concentrate on winning football matches, which will sit well with coach Tim Sheens, who is under increasing pressure to deliver after missing out on the finals last season.

As for the Sea Eagles, I'm not sure what season 2010 will bring – on paper they're genuine premiership contenders, but on the field they can lose their way. Monday Night Football at its best and the final result is likely to go down to the wire.

Expect a high scoring game, with the Tigers' attacking flair up against Manly's tough and tight defence.

Take either team to win by under 6.5 points at 2.64 centrebet in a multi.

MATCH ODDS	
West's Tigers:	1.81 betfair
Sea Eagles:	2.16 betfair

TOMMY'S MULTI:

- NRL – West's Tigers v Sea Eagles – either team to win by less than 6.5 points @ 2.64 centrebet
- Champions League Soccer – Bordeaux v Olympiakos – Bordeaux to win @ 1.59 betfair

Dividend: 4.19



Madrid top Spain, but crash from Europe

By Kieran Pender

A goal two minutes from the death last weekend saw Real Madrid go top in the La Liga title race, but a one-all draw with Lyon only four days later has seen the Galacticos of Madrid crash out of the European Champions League in stunning style.

The scene was set in Madrid. Barcelona's game against Almeria had seen them slip to a two-one deficit, only for Lionel Messi to level the score. But even Messi's magic could not prevent Almeria from holding on to a draw, and leave Madrid with a chance to climb to the top of the La Liga table.

Over at the Bernabeu, Madrid's game against Sevilla had already kicked off, as a ten minute delay at the beginning of the Barcelona game had seen the games overlap. Unfortunately things did not start well for the Los Blancos, with former Liverpool midfielder Xabi Alonso putting the ball into the back of his own net in only the tenth minute.

Although Alvaro Negredo, a former Madrid player himself, may have had some qualms with the goal going down as an Alonso own goal, there was certainly no doubting the scorer of the next goal. Serbian defender Ivica Dragutinovic crossed the ball into the box, only to see his cross continue onwards, past Iker Casillas, and into the Madrid net.

Two-nil down, and three points behind Barcelona, Madrid could be forgiven for



White hankies for Manuel Pellegrini?
Real Madrid kept it pretty surreal in Europe last week and now must concentrate on domestic honours.

starting to wonder if they could keep up with the mighty Barcelona juggernaut (even though Barca themselves had slipped up only an hour ago). But Manuel Pellegrini's side rallied, and two quick-fire goals in the space of four minutes put them right back in the game.

Finally, with only two minutes left of extra time, the failure of Madrid to capitalise on Barcelona's draw appeared as if

it might be a turning point in the Spanish title race. But suddenly striker Gonzalo Higuain's header clattered off Sevilla keeper Andres Palop, and fell to the feet of Rafael van der Vaart, the very player Madrid had been trying to push out the door during the European summer.

Van der Vaart poked the ball over the line, and with that, the Madrid side that had been assembled by Florentino Perez

for such an extravagant sum of money, went to the top of La Liga for the first time in thirteen rounds.

While Madrid are only leading on goal difference, and at the end of the season it is head to head record, not goal difference, that decides the title if points are even, it was nevertheless seen as a huge step forward by the Madridista faithful.

But, staying true to the old saying, 'one

step forward and two steps back', Madrid continued on to drop out of the UEFA Champions League only four days later, with a one-all draw with Lyon in Madrid. A Real Madrid side, costing more than the GDP of a small country, has now, for the sixth year running, failed to make the Champions League quarter finals.

A goal from Lyon's Miralem Pjanic in the seventy fifth minute levelled the scoring, after Ronaldo had opened the scoring in the sixth minute, and Pjanic's equaliser left Madrid behind on aggregate (Lyon won the first leg one-nil). Despite Madrid's best efforts they were unable to find another goal, and crashed out of the Champions League at the end of the ninety minutes.

Real Madrid's failure to progress beyond the round of sixteen is made all the more embarrassing as their stadium, the Santiago Bernabéu, will host the Champions League final. With Barcelona looking likely to progress further in the competition, Madrid may face the prospect of having to watch their most hated rivals in action on the 22nd of May.

Madrid coach Manuel Pellegrini now faces an anxious wait to see if his coaching position at Madrid remains tenable. While winning the title will now be his only priority, even that may not save him, current England manager Fabio Capello was sacked only weeks after winning the title in the 2006/07 season.

Champions League Preview

Fight for remaining quarter final spots

By Matt Galea

WITH Arsenal, Bayern Munich, Lyon and Manchester United securing their spots in the quarter finals already in some scintillating ties, our attention this week will turn to the other eight sides left to contend the remaining four available spots in the Champions League.

Manchester United once again demonstrated the fantastic progress they have made in Europe in recent years by trouncing AC Milan 4-0 at Old Trafford, which many feel will will avenge the 3-0 loss United suffered at the San Siro in 2007. Arsenal too enjoyed a massive victory, putting five goals past a Porto side who defeated Arsenal in the first leg.

Munich and Lyon's victories were by considerably smaller margins, however that won't stop Lyon from reveling in what was a magnificent result against Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu, where this year's final will eventually be held. Munich struggled a little more and was perhaps somewhat fortunate at the expense of a very impressive Fiorentina side.

With the bar certainly being raised by last week's victors, there will be increased demands on this week's teams to match the quality of football displayed by last week's victors...

Sevilla FC vs. CSKA Moscow
Estadio Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan
6.45 am Kick Off March 16th

CSKA Moscow will be looking to star men Milos Krasic and Igor Akinfeev, the Russian club's two outstanding players in this European campaign, to inspire the club to victory in hostile territory. With no Russian Premier League games to contest, Moscow will be well rested



Jose Mourinho returns to London in the hugely anticipated UCL clash between Chelsea and Inter Milan.
What awaits is anyone's guess, but no doubt Jose will have a few tricks up his sleeve.

and up for this game, however the lack of match practice could also prove a hindrance on their preparations for this vital clash.

Sevilla, who aren't short of exciting attacking talent, will be confident heading into this one, despite losing to Madrid in the league last weekend. They will face a tough league game against Deportivo La Coruna, and they will hope to navigate that match without suffering any major injuries, in order to put the full strength team needed to overcome their tricky Russian opponents.

Chelsea vs. Internazionale
Stamford Bridge
6.45 am Kick Off March 16th

The biggest tie of the week will see

Jose Mourinho return to his old hunting ground, Stamford Bridge. No doubt, he will return with his usual swagger and controversy, as he looks to prove a point to Roman Abramovic, who decided to ace the Portuguese manager in 2008. There is certainly no love lost between Mourinho and his foe Carlo Ancelotti, with the two often exchanging heated words whilst the Italian was in charge of Inter's cross town rivals AC Milan. Goals from Milito and Cambiasso have given Inter a slight one goal advantage over Chelsea leading into the second leg in London. Chelsea will feel they were much the better team though, as they dominated possession and created far more chances than their Italian counterparts. Inter's dogged determination how-

ever got the better of Ancelotti's men in the San Siro, however, Chelsea will be confident that at home they will be able to overturn the deficit and seal progression to the quarter finals.

Bordeaux vs. Olympiakos
Chaban – Delmas
6.45 am Kick Off March 17th

Michael Ciani's header in the first half of the tightly contested match in Athens is all that separates the two sides heading into this second leg, however the fact that Ciani's goal for Bordeaux was scored away from home essentially means Olympiakos will need to score two goals to stand a chance of securing a spot in the quarter finals. For this to happen, the Greeks will need to add an

element of lethality to their game. They created some fantastic chances but just couldn't find the back of net, a failure which could have already sealed their fate in this tie.

Bordeaux on the other hand will be thrilled to have come through a tough away match with a one goal advantage. The impetus will be on Olympiakos to score, and Bordeaux will hope to use that to their advantage. With some fantastic talent in the shape of Yoann Gourcuff and Marouane Chamakh, they will have the talent to put this game to bed. The first goal in this tie will most likely be the most decisive one.

Barcelona FC vs. VfB Stuttgart
Camp Nou
6.45 am Kick Off March 18th

Stuttgart certainly showed that they are no pushovers at the Mercedes-Benz Arena in the first leg of this tie, carving out a very credible draw against the reigning European champions. Barcelona will be happy to have grabbed a vital away goal, which gives them a very slender advantage heading into this second leg, but will feel they will need to show some big improvements at home, particularly in their defence, as Pep Guardiola will surely be uncomfortable with the amount of chances Stuttgart managed to carve out.

Both sides face difficult domestic fixtures this week, with Barcelona entertaining Valencia, whilst Stuttgart will travel to Schalke, however they will hope that these matches provide adequate preparation for this important tie. Barcelona undoubtedly have the more talented squad, and whilst that doesn't automatically transfer into results, it is unlikely that Stuttgart will be able to match Barcelona again at the Nou Camp.

TO BE, OR NOT TO BE: THAT IS THE QUESTION



Victory marskman Archie Thompson



Melbourne Victory v Sydney FC
Saturday 20 March, 2010
Etihad Stadium, Melbourne



Hyundai A-League Grand Final Kick off 7.00pm
National Youth League Grand Final kick off 3.00pm
Gates Open 2.45pm



Sydney FC boys celebrate with John Aloisi



Andy Vargas with Grant Brebner after defeating Sydney



Victory defender Adrian Leijer



Carlos Hernandez with Archie Thompson



Alex Milic | GW Reporter
Sydney

Hyundai A-League Grand Final

Photos by Geoff Jones |
Sydney

Melbourne Victory will host Sydney FC in the fifth A League Grand Final on Saturday at Etihad Stadium.

The two teams have been the pacesetters all season, proving to be a class above from the rest of the competition.

Sydney finished on top of the league after defeating Melbourne 2:0 on the last day of the regular season; the winning side took the Minor Premiership.

It has truly been a thrilling season. Both sides have shown exceptional quality, deservedly so they will meet for the major prize of Australia's best football team.

The sides have met five teams this season, three of them meetings in the regular season saw the 'skyblues' not lose a game, winning

away 3:0 and in the last round 2:0.

Finals football is a different story, the arch rivals met in the Major Semi Final which Melbourne won 4:3 on aggregate after a thrilling high paced, high quality second leg at the Sydney Football Stadium which ended 2:2 after extra time.

Archie Thompson was the hero for Victory getting on the better end of a smartly taken quick free kick by Kevin Muscat which shocked the home crowd.

TICKETS

Away Club Member on sale – Monday 15 March, 9am to 9pm (VIC Time)

General Public – Tuesday 16 March – 9am (VIC Time)

Melbourne Victory

The defending champions are the A Leagues most successful club winning the Grand Final on two occasions both against Adelaide United in 2006/2007 in an emphatic 6:0 thumping and last year 1:0.

Victory led the league throughout the season with Sydney FC slowly following behind and only lost the Minor Premiership on the last day of the regular season losing in Sydney 2:0.

The side has proven to be the best in the country, having a squad full of depth and gifted with talented players such as Carlos Hernandez and striker Archie Thompson who can't stop scoring and having the backing of amazing supporters the club is the cream of the crop.

Melbourne will certainly be favourites to win successive Grand Finals and confirm their status as Australia's number one football side.

Key Player: Carlos Hernandez



Hernandez elated after Victory's triumph over Sydney

Sydney FC

The 2009/10 season has seen the rebirth of the countries so called glamour club. Bringing in a new manager yet again many thought it was going to be the same old story for the falling club but in fact it was totally the opposite and few would have imagined Sydney holding the Minor Premiership plate and playing in the Grand Final at the beginning of the season.

Czech manager Vitezslav Lavicka has been a breath of fresh air the club has desperately needed. The charismatic coach brought with him an East European style of play and influential midfielder Slovak Karol Kisel.

Kisel has been a key attribute to the team all season and for many he is the player of the season. His never give up attitude has given him a cult status among the Sydney fans and they will be more than happy to see him remain at the club

for another season. Sydney's best performances this season came against their rivals and Grand Final opponents Melbourne Victory. Two excellent wins 3:0 at Etihad and 2:0 at the Sydney football Stadium in the Minor Premiership decider.

Although losing on aggregate in the Major Semi, the 'skyblues' where very proud of their performance in the thrilling 2:2 second leg.

In the Preliminary Final against Wellington, the 'skyblues' continued to play a face paced attacking style of football to the delight of the home faithful. 4:2 was the score at the end of 90 minutes but it could have been more.

Sydney is deservedly in the Grand Final and will be up for it from the blow of the referees whistle.

Key Player: Karol Kisel



Alex Brosque will be vital



SOUTHERN DIVISION

<p>Round 1 Friday 12th March Glenorchy Knights v Clarence United KGV Park 8PM</p> <p>Saturday 13th March Taroona v Hobart Olympia Kelvedon Park 2:30PM Tilford Zebras v South Hobart KGV Park 6:30PM</p> <p>Sunday 14th March Kingborough Lions v New Town Eagles Lightwood Park 2:30PM</p> <p>Round 2 Friday 19th March Glenorchy Knights v New Town Eagles KGV Park 8PM</p> <p>Saturday 20th March Taroona v Tilford Zebras Kelvedon Park 2:30pm South Hobart v Kingborough Lions South Hobart 2:30pm</p> <p>Sunday 21st March Hobart Olympia v Clarence United South Hobart 2:30pm</p> <p>Round 3 Friday 26th March Glenorchy Knights v South Hobart KGV Park 8pm</p> <p>Saturday 27th March Hobart Olympia v New Town Eagles South Hobart 2:30pm Taroona v Clarence United Kelvedon Park 2:30pm</p> <p>Sunday 28th March Tilford Zebras v Kingborough Lions KGV Park 2:30pm</p> <p>Round 4 Friday 2nd April Tilford Zebras v Clarence United KGV Park 8pm</p> <p>Saturday 3rd April New Town Eagles v Taroona Clare Street 2:30pm South Hobart v Hobart Olympia South Hobart 2:30pm Kingborough Lions v Glenorchy Knights Lightwood Park 2:30pm</p> <p>Monday 5th April Statewide Lakoseljac Cup Qual. Round 2</p> <p>Round 5 Friday 9th April Glenorchy Knights v Tilford Zebras KGV Park 8pm</p> <p>Saturday 10th April New Town Eagles v Clarence United Clare Street 2:30pm Kingborough Lions v Hobart Olympia Lightwood Park 2:30pm</p> <p>Sunday 11th April South Hobart v Taroona South Hobart 2:30pm</p> <p>Round 6 Saturday 17th April Hobart Olympia v Glenorchy Knights South Hobart 2:30pm Clarence United v South Hobart Wentworth Park 2 6.30pm</p> <p>Sunday 18th April New Town Eagles v Tilford Zebras Clare Street 2:30pm Taroona v Kingborough Lions Kelvedon Park 2:30pm</p> <p>Round 7 Friday 23rd April Glenorchy Knights v Taroona KGV Park 8pm</p> <p>Saturday 24th April Kingborough Lions v Clarence United Lightwood Park 2:30pm Tilford Zebras v Hobart Olympia KGV Park 6.30pm</p> <p>Sunday 25th April South Hobart v New Town Eagles South Hobart 2:30pm</p>	<p>Round 8 Saturday 1st May New Town Eagles v Kingborough Lions Clare Street 2:30pm South Hobart v Tilford Zebras South Hobart 2:30pm Clarence United v Glenorchy Knights Wentworth Park 2 6.30pm</p> <p>Sunday 2nd May Hobart Olympia v Taroona South Hobart 2:30pm</p> <p>Round 9 Friday 7th May Tilford Zebras v Taroona KGV Park 8pm</p> <p>Saturday 8th May New Town Eagles v Glenorchy Knights Clare Street 2:30pm Clarence United v Hobart Olympia Wentworth Park 2 6.30pm</p> <p>Sunday 9th May Kingborough Lions v South Hobart Lightwood Park 2:30pm</p> <p>Saturday 15th May Statewide Lakoseljac Cup Round 1</p> <p>Round 10 Saturday 22nd May New Town Eagles v Hobart Olympia Clare Street 2:30pm Kingborough Lions v Tilford Zebras Lightwood Park 2:30pm Clarence United v Taroona Wentworth Park 2 6.30pm</p> <p>Sunday 23rd May South Hobart v Glenorchy Knights South Hobart 2:30pm</p> <p>Round 11 Friday 28th May Glenorchy Knights v Kingborough Lions KGV Park 8pm</p> <p>Saturday 29th May Hobart Olympia v South Hobart South Hobart 2:30pm Clarence United v Tilford Zebras Wentworth Park 2 6.30pm</p> <p>Sunday 30th May New Town Eagles v Taroona Clare Street 2:30pm</p> <p>Round 12 Friday 4th June Tilford Zebras v Glenorchy Knights KGV Park 8pm</p> <p>Saturday 5th June Taroona v South Hobart Kelvedon Park 2:30pm Clarence United v New Town Eagles Wentworth Park 2 6.30pm</p> <p>Sunday 6th June Hobart Olympia v Kingborough Lions South Hobart 2:30pm</p> <p>Round 13 Friday 11th June Glenorchy Knights v Hobart Olympia KGV Park 8pm</p> <p>Saturday 12th June Tilford Zebras v New Town Eagles KGV Park 2:30pm South Hobart v Clarence United South Hobart 2:30pm Kingborough Lions v Taroona Lightwood Park 2:30pm</p> <p>Round 14 Monday 14th June New Town Eagles v South Hobart Clare Street 2:30pm Clarence United v Kingborough Lions Wentworth Park 2 2.30pm Taroona v Glenorchy Knights Kelvedon Park 2:30pm Hobart Olympia v Tilford Zebras South Hobart 2:30pm</p> <p>Saturday 19th June Statewide Lakoseljac Cup Round 2</p>	<p>Round 15 Friday 25th June Tilford Zebras v South Hobart KGV Park 8pm</p> <p>Saturday 26th June Kingborough Lions v New Town Eagles Lightwood Park 2:30pm Clarence United v Glenorchy Knights Wentworth Park 2 6.30pm</p> <p>Sunday 27th June Taroona v Hobart Olympia Kelvedon Park 2:30pm</p> <p>Round 16 Saturday 3rd July Taroona v Tilford Zebras Kelvedon Park 2:30pm South Hobart v Kingborough Lions South Hobart 2:30pm</p> <p>Sunday 4th July New Town Eagles v Glenorchy Knights Clare Street 2:30pm Hobart Olympia v Clarence United South Hobart 2:30pm</p> <p>Round 17 Friday 9th July Glenorchy Knights v South Hobart KGV Park 8pm</p> <p>Saturday 10th July Hobart Olympia v New Town Eagles South Hobart 2:30pm Clarence United v Taroona Wentworth Park 2 6.30pm</p> <p>Sunday 11th July Tilford Zebras v Kingborough Lions KGV Park 2:30pm</p> <p>Round 18 Friday 16th July Tilford Zebras v Clarence United KGV Park 8pm</p> <p>Saturday 17th July Kingborough Lions v Glenorchy Knights Lightwood Park 2:30pm Taroona v New Town Eagles Kelvedon Park 2:30pm</p> <p>Sunday 18th July South Hobart v Hobart Olympia South Hobart 2:30pm</p> <p>Saturday 24th July Statewide Lakoseljac Cup Semi-finals</p> <p>Round 19 Saturday 31st July New Town Eagles v Clarence United Clare Street 2:30pm Kingborough Lions v Hobart Olympia Lightwood Park 2:30pm Glenorchy Knights v Tilford Zebras KGV Park 2:30pm</p> <p>Sunday 1st August South Hobart v Taroona South Hobart 2:30pm</p> <p>Round 20 Saturday 7th August Taroona v Kingborough Lions Kelvedon Park 2:30pm Hobart Olympia v Glenorchy Knights South Hobart 2:30pm Clarence United v South Hobart Wentworth Park 2 6.30pm</p> <p>Sunday 8th August New Town Eagles v Tilford Zebras Clare Street 2:30pm</p> <p>Round 21 Friday 13th August Glenorchy Knights v Taroona KGV Park 8pm</p> <p>Saturday 14th August South Hobart v New Town Eagles South Hobart 2:30pm Kingborough Lions v Clarence United Lightwood Park 2:30pm Tilford Zebras v Hobart Olympia KGV Park 6.30pm</p>
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Clarence United with the Tasmanian title last season.

NORTHERN DIVISION

<p>Round 1 Saturday 27th March Prospect Knights v Northern Rangers Harley Parade 2:30pm Riverside Olympic v Launceston City Windsor Park 2:30pm Somerset v Ulverstone Cardigan Street 2:30pm Burnie United v Launceston United Montello 2:30pm Devonport City - Bye</p> <p>Round 2 Saturday 3rd April Launceston City v Burnie United Mitsubishi Park 2:30pm Launceston Utd v Riverside Olympic Birch Avenue 2:30pm Somerset v Prospect Knights Cardigan Street 2:30pm Devonport City v Ulverstone Valley Road 2:30pm Northern Rangers - Bye</p> <p>Monday 5th April Statewide Lakoseljac Cup Qual. Round 2</p> <p>Round 3 Saturday 10th April Prospect Knights v Riverside Olympic Harley Parade 2:30pm Burnie United v Somerset Montello 2:30pm Northern Rangers v Launceston Utd NTCA 6.30pm Launceston City v Devonport City Mitsubishi Park 6.30pm Ulverstone - Bye</p> <p>Round 4 Saturday 17th April Launceston United v Ulverstone Birch Avenue 2:30pm Riverside Olympic v Northern Rangers Windsor Park 2:30pm Devonport City v Somerset Valley Road 2:30pm Burnie United v Prospect Knights Montello 2:30pm Launceston City - Bye</p> <p>Round 5 Saturday 24th April Prospect Knights v Ulverstone Harley Parade 2:30pm Northern Rangers v Burnie United NTCA 2:30pm Launceston United v Devonport City Birch Avenue 2:30pm Somerset v Launceston City Cardigan Street 2:30pm Riverside Olympic - Bye</p> <p>Round 6 Saturday 1st May Ulverstone v Northern Rangers Ulverstone Showgrounds 2:30pm Devonport City v Prospect Knights Valley Road 2:30pm Burnie United v Riverside Olympic Montello 2:30pm Launceston City v Launceston United Mitsubishi Park 6.30pm Somerset - Bye</p>	<p>Round 7 Saturday 8th May Launceston United v Somerset Birch Avenue 2:30pm Riverside Olympic v Ulverstone Windsor Park 2:30pm Burnie United v Devonport City Montello 2:30pm Northern Rangers v Launceston City NTCA 6.30pm Prospect Knights - Bye</p> <p>Saturday 15th May Statewide Lakoseljac Cup Round 1</p> <p>Round 8 Saturday 22nd May Prospect Knights v Launceston United Harley Parade 2:30pm Northern Rangers v Somerset NTCA 2:30pm Ulverstone v Launceston City Ulverstone Showgrounds 2:30pm Devonport City v Riverside Olympic Valley Road 2:30pm Burnie United - Bye</p> <p>Round 9 Saturday 29th May Somerset v Riverside Olympic Cardigan Street 2:30pm Burnie United v Ulverstone Montello 2:30pm Devonport City v Northern Rangers Valley Road 2:30pm Launceston City v Prospect Knights Mitsubishi Park 4.30pm Launceston United - Bye</p> <p>Round 10 Saturday 5th June Launceston United v Burnie United Birch Avenue 2:30pm Ulverstone v Somerset Ulverstone Showgrounds 2:30pm Launceston City v Riverside Olympic Mitsubishi Park 4.30pm Northern Rangers v Prospect Knights NTCA 6.30pm Devonport City - Bye</p> <p>Round 11 Saturday 12th June Prospect Knights v Somerset Harley Parade 2:30pm Burnie United v Launceston City Montello 2:30pm Ulverstone v Devonport City Ulverstone Showgrounds 2:30pm Riverside Olympic v Launceston United Windsor Park 2:30pm Northern Rangers - Bye</p> <p>Saturday 19th June Statewide Lakoseljac Cup Round 2</p> <p>Round 12 Saturday 26th June Launceston United v Nthn Rangers Birch Avenue 2:30pm Riverside Olympic v Prospect Knights Windsor Park 2:30pm Somerset v Burnie United Cardigan Street 2:30pm Devonport City v Launceston City Valley Road 2:30pm Ulverstone - Bye</p>	<p>Round 13 Saturday 3rd July Prospect Knights v Burnie United Harley Parade 2:30pm Somerset v Devonport City Cardigan Street 2:30pm Ulverstone v Launceston United Ulverstone Showgrounds 2:30pm Northern Rangers v Riverside Olympic NTCA 6.30pm Launceston City - Bye</p> <p>Round 14 Saturday 10th July Launceston City v Somerset Mitsubishi Park 2:30pm Ulverstone v Prospect Knights Ulverstone Showgrounds 2:30pm Devonport City v Launceston United Valley Road 2:30pm Burnie United v Northern Rangers Montello 2:30pm Riverside Olympic - Bye</p> <p>Round 15 Saturday 17th July Prospect Knights v Devonport City Harley Parade 2:30pm Launceston United v Launceston City Birch Avenue 2:30pm Riverside Olympic v Burnie United Windsor Park 2:30pm Northern Rangers v Ulverstone NTCA 4.30pm Somerset - Bye</p> <p>Saturday 24th July Statewide Lakoseljac Cup Semi-finals</p> <p>Round 16 Saturday 31st July Somerset v Launceston United Cardigan Street 2:30pm Ulverstone v Riverside Olympic Ulverstone Showgrounds 2:30pm Devonport City v Burnie United Valley Road 2:30pm Launceston City v Northern Rangers Mitsubishi Park 6.30pm Devonport City - Bye</p> <p>Round 17 Saturday 7th August Launceston City v Ulverstone Mitsubishi Park 2:30pm Launceston United v Prospect Knights Birch Avenue 2:30pm Riverside Olympic v Devonport City Windsor Park 2:30pm Somerset v Northern Rangers Cardigan Street 2:30pm Burnie United - Bye</p> <p>Round 18 Saturday 14th August Northern Rangers v Devonport City NTCA 2:30pm Prospect Knights v Launceston City Harley Parade 2:30pm Riverside Olympic v Somerset Windsor Park 2:30pm Ulverstone v Burnie United Ulverstone Showgrounds 2:30pm Launceston United - Bye</p>
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KEY DIARY DATES

- Saturday 21st August - Statewide Lakoseljac Cup - Final
- Saturday 28th August - Forestry Tasmania Final Series - Round 1
- Saturday 4th September - Forestry Tasmania Final Series - Semi-finals
- Saturday 11th September - Forestry Tasmania Final Series - Grand Final

PREVIOUS STATE TITLES

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 2009 CLARENCE UNITED | 2005 GLENORCHY KNIGHTS |
| 2008 SOUTH HOBART | 2004 DEVONPORT |
| 2007 HOBART ZEBRAS | 2003 DEVONPORT |
| 2006 SOMERSET | 2002 SOUTH HOBART |



Knights set the pace in Tassie

By Walter Pless

Glenorchy Knights began their league campaign in style with a 5-1 thrashing of Clarence United at KGV Park on Friday evening.

And, the enfant terrible of Tasmanian football, Corey Smith, grabbed a hat-trick in the process.

Jade Clay and James Sherman were also on target for the Knights, while Chris Hunt replied for Clarence.

The biggest shock of the opening round came on Saturday afternoon when newly promoted Taroona downed Olympia Warriors 3-1 at home at Kelvedon Park.

Olympia opened the scoring in the 11th minute when Adam Powell played a sweeping pass out of defence to the left to Nick Meredith, whose cross was not dealt with by Taroona.

The ball fell to Fletcher Tracy, who hammered it past Taroona keeper Richard Nettlefold to give the visitors the lead.

Taroona refused to be covered by the set-back, however, and midfielder Duncan Carey put them level in the 21st minute when he cut in from the right and placed a shot inside the far top corner of the net.

This inspired the home side and their vocal supporters and it came as no sur-

prise when veteran Hugo Luttmier put Taroona in front six minute later.

Garry Hamilton worked his way into the Olympia penalty area and was up-ended, but Luttmier struck home the loose ball, negating the need for the referee, Ivan Jozeljic, to make a decision about a penalty.

Four minutes before the interval, Toby Dove added the third after the ball cannoned off the goalkeeper as he tried to block a pass and fell perfectly for the Taroona midfielder to stroke it into the net.

The Saturday evening game was at KGV Park, where reigning southern champion South Hobart took on Tilford Zebras.

A minute's silence was observed before the game in honour of Luciano Longo, father of former Young Socceroo, Dominic Longo.

Luciano had been a Hobart Juventus captain in the late 1950s and early 1960s and played for Tasmania against Victoria at Olympic Park in 1963, a game which the home side won 7-1.

South Hobart dominated the early possession without being able to score and it was the Zebras who took a shock lead midway through the opening half when they were awarded a penalty by Kim Barker for Garry Upton's trip on Jayden Welch.

South Hobart keeper Sam Kruijver blocked Ben Crosswell's spot-kick, but the Zebras midfielder got to the rebound and scored.

Kostas Kanakaris and Jim Pennicott had missed chances for South earlier, but they were now up against a stubborn Zebras outfit that were determined to protect their lead.

It did not last long, however, and the sides were level in the 32nd minute. Kanakaris played a long ball from the left to the right, where the advancing fullback, Josh Heerey, gained possession.

Heerey cut the ball inside to Jonathon Lo, who controlled, turned and fired into the roof of the net to make it 1-1.

South could smell Zebras blood now, but try as they might, they were unable to find a winner.

Zebras keeper Troy Kaden turned a Kanakaris effort over the bar before the end, and South substitute David Abbott forced Kaden to get down to his near post to concede a fruitless corner.

Zebras also tested the South defence on a couple of occasions as Kruijver blocked at the feet of Welch and the same player also drove narrowly over the bar

Taroona's Marcus Atkinson (left) tackles Olympia's Ben Phillips.

PHOTO: WALTER PLESS



TIGHT AT THE TOP AS RIVALS HELD

By Mike Salter

On a weekend which showed just how close the competition will be this year, the NSW Premier League's leading pack were all held to draws.

High-flying Bonnyrigg were held to a 0-0 stalemate at Marconi on Saturday, as the Serbian-backed club's campaign hit its first roadblock. In Saturday's other game, defending champions Sutherland posted their first win of the season, defeating the struggling South Coast Wolves. Details of this one can be found below.

In Sunday's action, last season's premiers Sydney United were surprisingly held 1-1 by the West Sydney Berries at home, both goals coming in the first period. Blacktown City's revival did not extend to a victory over the promoted Rockdale City Suns; Aytek Genc's men conceded a late equaliser against the Berries, with 2-2 the eventual result. The always passionate Bankstown v. Olympic game also ended 2-2, all goals coming within twenty-five minutes of the close. Manly United were the only team to register three points on Sunday with a 3-0 away win over the APIA Tigers, who have started the campaign as poorly as they ended 2009.

Sutherland Sharks 2-0 South Coast Wolves

Last year's champions finally got off the mark in this year's competition with a comfortable home win over the South Coast Wolves in the "southern derby".

Not that the visitors began badly; the young Wolves side looked lively and inventive in the opening exchanges. Sutherland's Hussein Jasli had a chance as early as the second minute when he burst past Jason Trifiro in midfield and tried his luck from a tight angle, but the away side soon took control. A low corner from Tayfun Buyukkopru, a key fig-

ure for the Wolves in the first half, was flicked over the bar by Greg Valic at the near post.

Although the South Coast were dominating territorially, the next two chances fell to the home side. Chris Price blasted a volley into a Wolves defender following a good left-wing move, and on 13 minutes Jasli flicked the ball neatly past Valic, but was too ambitious with his eventual shot, attempting to chip the keeper when he should have fired the ball home. Jasli had another chance a few minutes later, but failed to get any power on his header from Price's cross.

The Wolves then took charge, with Buyukkopru at the heart of everything. First, following an intricate left-wing move, he fired in a low right-footed shot that was held ably by Nathan Denham. The very mobile Ken Chun played Buyukkopru in again on 21 minutes, but this time the shot was scuffed; only a minute later, another series of midfield exchanges from the visitors ended with a stunning 25-yard drive from Buyukkopru which was well-saved by Denham, who managed to hold the ball at the second attempt.

Very much against the run of play, Sutherland opened the scoring on 28 minutes. Although most of their play had come down the left in the opening period, it was a right-wing move which ended with a cross from Yianni Fragogiannis finding the head of Blake Powell at the far post, who placed a precise header past Brody Crane in the South Coast goal.

The away side might have equalised on 37 minutes when the ubiquitous Buyukkopru flicked the ball on for Chun, but Denham covered the South Coast winger's shot with some ease. Then, at the other end, another cross from Fragogiannis was mishandled by the South Coast defence, giving Price a chance which he squandered. After another half-chance for Chun, an entertaining half was at an end.



FNSW action between Manly and APIA. PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO

The second half began with a superb South Coast move on the right, ending with a powerful volley from Andrew Paine which brought a very fine save from Denham. This proved to be a crucial moment, as only a few minutes later the hosts went further ahead.

George Souris, showing all his experience, played an accurate long ball into the path of Jasli. The young striker rounded the advancing Crane and pushed the ball aside for Price, who steered the ball into the empty net. 2-0 to Sutherland, and it might have been three soon afterwards when Neil Jablonski went close after a one-two with Jasli.

The confident Jasli again latched onto a long ball out of defence just before the hour, but had his cross-shot held by Crane. The fight began to ebb out of the Wolves as the half wore on; at the halfway point

of the second period, Price was harshly called offside when he headed Powell's excellent cross into the South Coast net. The hosts were firmly in control.

Scottish striker Stephen McConologue came on for Sutherland with 15 minutes to play, and caused the South Coast defence problems immediately. His first touch was a free kick from a tight angle which almost sailed straight into the goal, and on 86 minutes he headed another fine cross from Powell onto the post, via the fingertips of Crane. The Wolves keeper was fortunate that the ball rebounded from the woodwork straight into his arms.

The visitors failed to trouble Sutherland unduly in the final minutes, and ultimately the 2-0 result was a just one. The champions are on the scoreboard at last.

LADDER

	P	W	L	Pts
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	3	2	0	7
Sydney United	3	2	0	7
Blacktown City FC	3	2	0	7
Marconi Stallions	3	2	0	7
Manly United FC	3	1	1	4
Sydney Olympic	3	1	1	4
West Sydney Berries	3	1	1	4
Rockdale City Suns	3	1	1	4
Sutherland Sharks	3	1	2	3
Bankstown City	3	0	1	2
South Coast Wolves	3	0	3	0
APIA Leichhardt Tigers	3	0	3	0

Results

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND THREE:

FIRST GRADE: Bankstown City Lions 2 (Robert Mileski 65m Tallan Martin 73m) Sydney Olympic 2 (Luke Gearin 66m Mitchell Stamatellis 85m), Blacktown City FC 2 (Tolgay Ozbey 12m Jordan Simpson 33m) Rockdale City Suns 2 (Marino Musumeci 28m Baturay Akin 82m), Sydney United 1 (Luka Glavas 22m) West Sydney Berries 1 (Sash Tirovski 40m), APIA Leichhardt Tigers 0 Manly United FC 3 (Adam Foti 6m Bradley Groves 24m Keith Shevlin 74m). Sutherland Sharks 2 (Blake Powell 27m Christopher Price 57m) South Coast Wolves 0, Marconi Stallions 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0.

GRADE 20: Bankstown City Lions 2 Sydney Olympic 2, Blacktown City FC 3 Rockdale City Suns 2, Sydney United 0 West Sydney Berries 1, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 3 Manly United FC 1. Sutherland Sharks 2 South Coast Wolves 2, Marconi Stallions 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2.

GRADE 18: Blacktown City FC 3 Rockdale City Suns 1, Sydney United 3 West Sydney Berries 1, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 3 Manly United FC 2. Sutherland Sharks 1 South Coast Wolves 2, Marconi Stallions 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2.

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND THREE: GRADE 13: Project 22 1 Manly United 1. GRADE 14: Project 22 1 Manly United 4. GRADE 15: Project 22 1 Manly United 4.

METROPOLITAN REPRESENTATIVE LEAGUE: ROUND THREE: GRADE 11: Nepean 1 Manly Warringah 1, Blacktown 1 Eastern Suburbs 2, Sutherland 0 Canterbury 2, Bankstown 5 Illawarra 1, Macarthur 2 St George 1, Granville 2 Ku-ring-gai 0, Central Coast 3 Gladesville Hornsby 1, Southern Branch 4 Southern Districts 1. GRADE 12: Nepean 3 Manly Warringah 1, Blacktown 0 Eastern Suburbs 2, Sutherland 1 Canterbury 1, Bankstown 2 Illawarra 1, Macarthur 3 St George 0, Granville 4 Ku-ring-gai 0, Central Coast 0 Gladesville Hornsby 1, Southern Branch 0 Southern Districts 3.



Round 1
Sat 20/03/2010
Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Campbelltown
3pm Marden Sports Complex
Cumberland Utd vs Adelaide Cobras
3pm Bailey Reserve
Para Hills vs Raiders
7pm The Paddocks
Western Strikers vs Adelaide Galaxy
7pm Carnegie Reserve

Mon 22/03/2010
Adelaide City vs MetroStars
7.30pm Adelaide City Park

Round 2
Sat 27/03/2010
Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Western Strikers
3pm Marden Sports Complex
Cumberland Utd vs Adelaide City
3pm Bailey Reserve
Raiders vs Adelaide Cobras
3pm Croatian Sports Centre
Adelaide Galaxy vs Para Hills
7pm Con Makris Park

Sun 28/03/2010
MetroStars vs Campbelltown
3pm T.K. Shutter Reserve

Round 3
Sat 10/04/2010
Adelaide Cobras vs Adelaide Galaxy
3pm Weigall Oval
Campbelltown vs Cumberland Utd
3pm Newton Village Sports Complex
Para Hills vs Adelaide Blue Eagles
7pm The Paddocks
Western Strikers vs MetroStars
7pm Carnegie Reserve

Mon 12/04/2010
Adelaide City vs Raiders
7.30pm Adelaide City Park

Round 4
Sat 17/04/2010
Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Adelaide Cobras
3pm Marden Sports Complex
Cumberland Utd vs Western Strikers
3pm Bailey Reserve
MetroStars vs Para Hills
3pm T.K. Shutter Reserve
Raiders vs Campbelltown
3pm Croatian Sports Centre
Adelaide Galaxy vs Adelaide City
7pm Con Makris Park

Round 5
Sat 01/05/2010
Campbelltown vs Adelaide Galaxy
3pm Marden Sports Complex
Cumberland Utd vs MetroStars
3pm Bailey Reserve
Raiders vs Adelaide Blue Eagles
3pm Croatian Sports Centre
Western Strikers vs Para Hills
7pm Carnegie Reserve

Mon 03/05/2010
Adelaide City vs Adelaide Cobras
7.30pm Adelaide City Park

Round 6
Sat 08/05/2010
Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Cumberland Utd
3pm Marden Sports Complex
Adelaide Cobras vs MetroStars
3pm Weigall Oval
Western Strikers vs Adelaide City
3pm Carnegie Reserve
Adelaide Galaxy vs Raiders
7pm Con Makris Park
Para Hills vs Campbelltown
7pm The Paddocks



Metro celebrate their FFSA Grand Final win in 2009.

Round 7
Sat 15/05/2010
Campbelltown vs Adelaide Cobras
3pm Newton Village Sports Complex
Cumberland Utd vs Adelaide Galaxy
3pm Bailey Reserve
Raiders vs Western Strikers
3pm Croatian Sports Centre
Sun 16/05/2010
MetroStars vs Adelaide Blue Eagles
3pm T.K. Shutter Reserve

Mon 17/05/2010
Adelaide City vs Para Hills
7.30pm Adelaide City Park

Round 8
Sat 29/05/2010
Adelaide Galaxy vs Adelaide Blue Eagles
3pm Con Makris Park
Raiders vs MetroStars
3pm Croatian Sports Centre
Western Strikers vs Adelaide Cobras
3pm Carnegie Reserve
Para Hills vs Cumberland Utd
7pm The Paddocks

Mon 31/05/2010
Adelaide City vs Campbelltown
7.30pm Adelaide City Park

Round 9
Sat 05/06/2010
Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Adelaide City
3pm Marden Sports Complex
Adelaide Cobras vs Para Hills
3pm Weigall Oval
Cumberland Utd vs Raiders
3pm Bailey Reserve
MetroStars vs Adelaide Galaxy
3pm T.K. Shutter Reserve
Western Strikers vs Campbelltown
3pm Carnegie Reserve

Round 10
Sat 12/06/2010
Adelaide Cobras vs Cumberland Utd
3pm Weigall Oval
Adelaide Galaxy vs Western Strikers
3pm Con Makris Park
Campbelltown vs Adelaide Blue Eagles
3pm Newton Village Sports Complex
MetroStars vs Adelaide City
3pm T.K. Shutter Reserve
Raiders vs Para Hills
3pm Croatian Sports Centre

Round 11
Sat 19/06/2010
Adelaide Cobras vs Raiders
3pm Weigall Oval
Campbelltown vs MetroStars
3pm Newton Village Sports Complex
Para Hills vs Adelaide Galaxy
3pm The Paddocks
Western Strikers vs Adelaide Blue Eagles
3pm Carnegie Reserve

Sun 20/06/2010
Adelaide City vs Cumberland Utd
3pm Adelaide City Park

Round 12
Sat 26/06/2010
Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Para Hills
3pm Marden Sports Complex
Adelaide Galaxy vs Adelaide Cobras
3pm Con Makris Park
Cumberland Utd vs Campbelltown
3pm Bailey Reserve
MetroStars vs Western Strikers
3pm T.K. Shutter Reserve
Raiders vs Adelaide City
3pm Croatian Sports Centre

Round 13
Sat 03/07/2010
Adelaide Cobras vs Adelaide Blue Eagles
3pm Weigall Oval
Campbelltown vs Raiders
3pm Newton Village Sports Complex
Para Hills vs MetroStars
3pm T.K. Shutter Reserve
Western Strikers vs Cumberland Utd
3pm Carnegie Reserve

Sun 04/07/2010
Adelaide City vs Adelaide Galaxy
3pm Adelaide City Park

Round 14
Sat 10/07/2010
Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Raiders
3pm Marden Sports Complex
Adelaide Cobras vs Adelaide City
3pm Weigall Oval
Adelaide Galaxy vs Campbelltown
3pm Con Makris Park
MetroStars vs Cumberland Utd
3pm T.K. Shutter Reserve
Para Hills vs Western Strikers
3pm The Paddocks

Round 15
Sat 17/07/2010
Campbelltown vs Para Hills
3pm Newton Village Sports Complex
Cumberland Utd vs Adelaide Blue Eagles
3pm Bailey Reserve
Raiders vs Adelaide Galaxy
3pm Croatian Sports Centre

Sun 18/07/2010
Adelaide City vs Western Strikers
3pm Adelaide City Park
MetroStars vs Adelaide Cobras
3pm T.K. Shutter Reserve

Round 16
Sat 31/07/2010
Adelaide Blue Eagles vs MetroStars
3pm Marden Sports Complex
Adelaide Cobras vs Campbelltown
3pm Weigall Oval
Adelaide Galaxy vs Cumberland Utd
3pm Con Makris Park
Para Hills vs Adelaide City
3pm The Paddocks
Western Strikers vs Raiders
3pm Carnegie Reserve

Round 17
Sat 07/08/2010
Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Adelaide Galaxy
3pm Marden Sports Complex
Adelaide Cobras vs Western Strikers
3pm Carnegie Reserve
Campbelltown vs Adelaide City
3pm Newton Village Sports Complex
Cumberland Utd vs Para Hills
3pm Bailey Reserve
MetroStars vs Raiders
3pm T.K. Shutter Reserve

Round 18
Sat 14/08/2010
Adelaide City vs Adelaide Blue Eagles
3pm Adelaide City Park
Adelaide Galaxy vs MetroStars
3pm Con Makris Park
Campbelltown vs Western Strikers
3pm Newton Village Sports Complex
Para Hills vs Adelaide Cobras
3pm The Paddocks
Raiders vs Cumberland Utd
3pm Croatian Sports Centre

RECENT SOUTH AUST. CHAMPIONS

- 2000 Adelaide Blue Eagles

2001 Adelaide Blue Eagles

2002 Adelaide Croatia Raiders

2003 Adelaide Blue Eagles

2004 MetroStars

2005 Adelaide City
- 2006 Adelaide City

(First past the post)

2007 Adelaide City

(First past the post)

2008 Adelaide City

2009 MetroStars

SA PREPARES FOR SUPER LEAGUE SEASON

By Nat Adamopoulos

THE 2010 FFSA Super League season kicks off on the 20th March with the top 4 teams facing up against each other in blockbuster games for Round 1. After 7 weeks of preseason competition it's shaping up to be another tight fight for championship honours.

2009 Super League Champions **MetroStars** are going into this season with almost a 100% unchanged Grand Final squad making them firm favourites. Apart from midfielder Jim Stavrides moving to Enfield City and Corey Artone choosing to retire, the squad remains firmly intact with an abundance of strength and football talents. A coaching change has seen David Terminello deciding to hang up the boots from his playing career to take over the reigns as Senior Coach from Michael Barnett who has been at the helm since 2003 but his commitments to Adelaide United Womens Team. The Stars will definitely be the ones to watch.

Adelaide Blue Eagles are the squad that is certainly looking the goods this season. After a somewhat disappointing finish to the 2009 season, multi-championship winning coach Zoran Karadzic would be hoping for more success this year as their preseason competition has shown. If rumours are correct, the single biggest loss to the side will be the retirement of long time keeper Gina DeLucia, whose entertaining keeping talents and love of controversy will be sadly missed by all football fans alike. Young up and coming keeper Lucas Andreucci (S.A.S.I./Adelaide United Youth Team) will be next in line to put the gloves on under the guidance of DeLucia. Also missed will be midfielder Steven Kidd (Adelaide Galaxy) who has parted from the club but the ones to watch will be incoming prolific goalscorer Chad Bugeja (Adelaide City), glamour boy striker Saranti Parissos and young Evan Kounavelis (Adelaide Galaxy), all giving the title a red hot go.

2010 Preseason Cup Winners and multiple title holders **Adelaide City** are coming into this season with 3 key losses to their side. No1 goalkeeper Ben Moore who has provided fans with his extro-



Can MetroStars double the dose in 2010? PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

verted antics and keeping prowess has moved onto Para Hills Knights, paving the way for incoming Dave Picca (Western Strikers) who has already made his mark between the sticks. Player/Coach Damian Mori has decided to step down from his commitments to the seniors and concentrate on coaching junior league football. He has however accepted an invitational 2-game stint at State League side South Adelaide Panthers, reuniting with his ex-team mate Steve Maxwell. Mori's absence is undoubtedly the single biggest loss to the Super League in recent times. Defender Paul Pezos has moved down to the Premier league with Adelaide Olympic keeping his loyalty to his Greek heritage. Returning to his old stomping ground will be Charlie Villani, one of City's old sons looking to regain that winning environment at the club. The club welcome back Fred Agius (Old Fury) to the midfield looking mean and lean, hoping to restore that deadly Nick Budin-Fred Agius partnership that was prevalent in 2008. New additions of Eli Vlassis (Western Strikers) and Daniel Spagnuolo (MetroStars) area indeed looking for the winning recipe for 2010.



Adelaide City will once again give the SA title a genuine tilt in 2010. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

Adelaide Galaxy Coach Carl Maynard has had more work that expected for the start to the season. The loss of key player and staunch midfielder Captain Paul Karittevlis (Adelaide Cobras) is a blow to the side but to take his place he has the services of hardman Steven Kidd (Adelaide Blue Eagles) who will more than amply fill that void. The experience of Captain Steve DeGiovanello will keep the side grounded and the return of striker Shaun McGreevy (Raiders) who will hope to regain his form from 2008 will be in their favour. New additions of Ben McLoughlin (Pirates), Adelaide United Youth Team youngsters Liam Wooding, Evan Kostopoulos, Brett Rayner and Jake Markham (Adelaide Hills) will ensure they field a team that is fit, strong and play hard for 90 minutes.

After a good first up season last year **Adelaide Croatia Raiders** are looking to improve overall in 2010 and going on their preseason performances are set to achieve that goal. 2009 Inaugural Martyn Crook Super League Coach of the Year Coach John Duthie has retained most of last years players but has lost his strikeforce in Rhys Townsend (Para Hills) and Shaun McGreevy (Adelaide Galaxy). Experience has been added to the side with defender Charles Marwe (Adelaide Hills) and pocket rocket Matthew Muscroft (Para Hills) which coupled with 2009 Sergio Melta Player of the Year winner and Captain Richie Alagich will keep the side up there with the front runners. Youngsters from last season stood up to the challenge of senior football and are continuing on with playing some beautiful possession football. Definitely a team to watch out for and never to be ridden off.

The **Red Devils Campbelltown City** are another side that remains mostly unchanged with the exception of a few new signings to add depth to an already strong side. Coach Rocky Aloisi boasts one of the best lines of defence in the league, led by Captain Michael D'Aloslio and rocksteady keeper Les Pogliacom. The Devils have lost 3 times Sergio Melta medalist Simon Catanzaro (Adelaide Comets) who missed most of last season with a knee injury but will welcome the return of Matthew Deegan from overseas. Despite this, Aloisi has recruited well with towering forward Alor Bulabek (Western Strikers) and Aaron Taye (Adelaide Olympic) forming a great partnership along with Toby Nel-

son (Adelaide Galaxy) and Mark Talbot (Raiders). Capping it off with 2009 Top Goalscorer Jason Trimboli up front, the Red Devils are a well drilled team who will certainly be in contention to finish their season on a high.

"Homeward Bound" could well be the theme for **Para Hills Knights** this season with many old faces coming back to the club. With the departure of Rob Ditroia taking up a coaching position with Bulleen, ex club man Kenny Tosh comes in on debut as Senior Coach. Assisted by club stalwart Darren Steele and the return of defender David Bounds the trio bring back some club loyalty to the Knights. Losses incurred to the Knights include Mark Mulady, Micheal Greco, Jimmy McKee, Micheal Cartwright (retired) and fiery Nathan Day (Comets). The highlight signing is undoubtedly keeper Ben Moore, who has already proven to be one of the best decisions the club has made, flexing his muscles with several best on ground performances. Strikers Rhys Townsend (Raiders) and Russell Clayton are fitting in well and young Alex Mullen has been playing with maturity, proving the Mullen name is synonymous with quality footballers. Led by experienced Captain Aaron Goulding, the para boys will be a tough outfit to break down and surely will be in the mix at the top.

2009 relegation escapees **Western Strikers** will be up against it this season with the loss of their super keeper Dave Picca and creative player Eli Vlassis who have both followed coach Charlie Villani to Adelaide City. Villani's assistant Aldo Maricic will be taking charge of the squad and has numerous new players coming into the side. Maricic will be welcoming the return of Cap-

tain Mikele Lastella (MetroStars), Vice Captain Michael Russo (broken leg), Frank Muscara Croydon), Mathew Fanto (White City Woodville) and Chahine Noujaim (SASI and national representative). He also brings in 2 UK imports Callum Flanagan (Ashton Utd, England Unibond Premier League, ex Man Utd Youth Team) and Chris Middleton (Ashton Utd) hoping they can bring the same qualities and success that Andy Thorpe did in 2009. Punters will be keeping their eye on Takumi Takahashi, a keeper from Japan and what he will be able to bring into the team.

2009 Premier League Champions **Adelaide Cobras** have showed that they are ready to take on the challenges of higher level football with their first ever promotion to the Super League. Coach Maurice Natale has made significant changes as expected, to ensure the club is up for the challenge. The signing of Newcastle Jet Angelo Costanzo is indeed a coup for the Cobras and coupled with Captain Paul Karittevlis (Galaxy) who joins his brother Con, will provide a real sting to their first year in. Other inclusions include speedster Anthony Costalos (White City), Paul Marino (Para Hills), Adrian Aufiero (Blue Eagles) and Foti Likouras (Western Strikers) to compliment what is already a strong squad with players that have super league experience. Watch out for Omary Katuka, his speed and agility making the job hard for any opponent. An unknown quantity, the Cobras are out to make a statement in their debut year.

2009 Federation Cup winners **Cumberland United** are making their return to the Super League after a hiatus of 3 years. Under the superb direction of ex Bournemouth club champion Neil Young, the Foxes are coming in with a level of professionalism and positive attitude that demands success. Hardman Captain Danny Greystone leads the team from the back and with the 2-pronged strikeforce of the Macdonald brothers Robbie and Brenton, they are hard hitting team to overcome. Amongst the new signings for 2010 are talented young keeper Dan Atkins, tall timber Damien Puyenbroek and midfielder Charlie Bowman all from Adelaide Hills. You can be sure the Foxes will be a fit squad that play hard football with their 'never say die' attitude that punters have grown accustomed to seeing.

All in all going on preseason performances, we are set to see an extremely tight season ahead where competition for top spots will be fierce. With the relatively short run of 18 matches to make the Top 5 play offs, it will only take a bad streak of 3 games or a spate of injuries to make it very hard for a side to make up ground against the other quality teams in this League. Goal!Weekly wishes all 10 Super League teams much success.



Cup winners, Cumberland United. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER



Round 1
Sat 20 Mar 3PM Armadale v Balcatta
Alfred Skeet Oval
Sat 20 Mar 3PM Swan United v Stirling Lions
Swan Italian Club
Sat 20 Mar 3PM Western Knights v Sorrento
Nash Field
Sat 20 Mar 3PM Inglewood United v ECU Joondalup
The Clipsal Stadium
Sat 20 Mar 3PM Floreat Athena v Mandurah City
E & D Litis Stadium
Sun 21 Mar 3PM Perth SC v Cockburn City
BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens

Round 2
Sat 27 Mar 3PM ECU Joondalup v Mandurah City
ECU Joondalup A
Sat 27 Mar 3PM Sorrento v Perth SC
Percy Doyle Reserve
Sat 27 Mar 3PM Cockburn City v Swan United
Dalmatinac Park
Sat 27 Mar 3PM Balcatta v Inglewood United
Grindleford Reserve
Sat 27 Mar 6PM Floreat Athena v Western Knights
E & D Litis Stadium
Sun 28 Mar 3PM Stirling Lions v Armadale
Macedonia Park

Round 3
Sat 3 Apr 3PM Armadale v Cockburn City
Alfred Skeet Oval
Sat 3 Apr 3PM Stirling Lions v Balcatta
Macedonia Park
Sat 3 Apr 3PM Swan United v Sorrento
Swan Italian Club
Sat 3 Apr 3PM Western Knights v ECU Joondalup
Nash Field
Sat 3 Apr 3PM Perth SC v Floreat Athena
BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens
Sat 3 Apr 3PM Mandurah City v Inglewood United
Hyundai Stadium

Round 4
Sat 10 Apr 3PM Floreat Athena v Swan United
E & D Litis Stadium
Sat 10 Apr 3PM ECU Joondalup v Perth SC
ECU Joondalup
Sat 10 Apr 3PM Sorrento v Armadale Percy
Doyle Reserve
Sat 10 Apr 3PM Inglewood United v WesternKnights
The Clipsal Stadium
Sat 10 Apr 3PM Cockburn City v Stirling Lions
Dalmatinac Park
Sat 10 Apr 3PM Balcatta v Mandurah City
Grindleford Reserve

Round 5
Sat 17 Apr 3PM Stirling Lions v Sorrento
Macedonia Park
Sat 17 Apr 3PM Swan United v ECU Joondalup
Swan Italian Club
Sat 17 Apr 3PM Western Knights v Mandurah City
Nash Field
Sat 17 Apr 3PM Perth SC v Inglewood United
BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens
Sat 17 Apr 3PM Cockburn City v Balcatta
Dalmatinac Park
Sat 17 Apr 6PM Armadale v Floreat Athena
Alfred Skeet Oval

Round 6
Sat 24 Apr 3PM Floreat Athena v Stirling Lions
E & D Litis Stadium
Sat 24 Apr 3PM ECU Joondalup v Armadale
ECU Joondalup
Sat 24 Apr 3PM Sorrento v Cockburn City
Percy Doyle Reserve
Sat 24 Apr 3PM Inglewood United v Swan United
The Clipsal Stadium
Sat 24 Apr 3PM Balcatta v Western Knights
Grindleford Reserve
Sat 24 Apr 6PM Mandurah City v Perth SC
Hyundai Stadium

Round 7
Sat 1 May 3PM Armadale v Inglewood United
Alfred Skeet Oval
Sat 1 May 3PM Sorrento v Balcatta
Percy Doyle Reserve
Sat 1 May 3PM Stirling Lions v ECU Joondalup
Macedonia Park
Sat 1 May 3PM Swan United v Mandurah City
Swan Italian Club
Sat 1 May 3PM Perth SC v Western Knights
BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens
Sat 1 May 3PM Cockburn City v Floreat Athena
Dalmatinac Park



Round 8
Sat 8 May 3PM Floreat Athena v Sorrento
E & D Litis Stadium
Sat 8 May 3PM ECU Joondalup v Cockburn City
ECU Joondalup
Sat 8 May 3PM Western Knights v Swan United
Nash Field
Sat 8 May 3PM Inglewood United v Stirling Lions
The Clipsal Stadium
Sat 8 May 3PM Mandurah City v Armadale
Hyundai Stadium
Sun 9 May 3PM Balcatta v Perth SC
Grindleford Reserve

Round 9
Sat 15 May 3PM Floreat Athena v Balcatta
E & D Litis Stadium
Sat 15 May 3PM Armadale v Western Knights
Alfred Skeet Oval
Sat 15 May 3PM Sorrento v ECU Joondalup
Percy Doyle Reserve
Sat 15 May 3PM Stirling Lions v Mandurah City
Macedonia Park
Sat 15 May 3PM Cockburn City v Inglewood United
Dalmatinac Park
Sun 16 May 3PM Swan United v Perth SC
Swan Italian Club

Round 10
Sat 22 May 3PM ECU Joondalup v Floreat Athena
ECU Joondalup
Sat 22 May 3PM Western Knights v Stirling Lions
Nash Field
Sat 22 May 3PM Inglewood United v Sorrento
The Clipsal Stadium
Sat 22 May 3PM Balcatta v Swan United
Grindleford Reserve
Sat 22 May 6PM Mandurah City v Cockburn City
Hyundai Stadium
Sun 23 May 3PM Perth SC v Armadale
BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens

Round 11
Sat 29 May 3PM Floreat Athena v Inglewood United
E & D Litis Stadium
Sat 29 May 3PM Armadale v Swan United Alfred
Skeet Oval A
Sat 29 May 3PM Sorrento v Mandurah City Percy
Doyle Reserve
Sat 29 May 3PM Western Knights v Cockburn City
Nash Field
Sat 29 May 3PM Balcatta v ECU Joondalup
Grindleford Reserve
Sun 30 May 3PM Stirling Lions v Perth SC
Macedonia Park

Round 12
Sat 5 Jun 3PM ECU Joondalup v Balcatta
ECU Joondalup
Sat 5 Jun 3PM Swan United v Armadale
Swan Italian Club
Sat 5 Jun 3PM Cockburn City v Western Knights
Dalmatinac Park
Sat 5 Jun 3PM Inglewood United v Floreat Athena
The Clipsal Stadium
5 Jun 3PM Perth SC v Stirling Lions
BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens
Sat 5 Jun 3PM Mandurah City v Sorrento
Hyundai Stadium

Round 13
Sat 12 Jun 3PM Mandurah City v Floreat Athena
Hyundai Stadium
Sat 12 Jun 3PM ECU Joondalup v Inglewood United
ECU Joondalup
Sat 12 Jun 3PM Sorrento v Western Knights
Percy Doyle Reserve
Sat 12 Jun 3PM Stirling Lions v Swan United
Macedonia Park
Sat 12 Jun 3PM Cockburn City v Perth SC
Dalmatinac Park
Sat 12 Jun 3PM Balcatta v Armadale
Grindleford Reserve

Round 14
Sat 19 Jun 3PM Swan United v Cockburn City
Swan Italian Club
Sat 19 Jun 3PM Western Knights v Floreat Athena
Nash Field
Sat 19 Jun 3PM Inglewood United v Balcatta
The Clipsal Stadium
Sat 19 Jun 3PM Perth SC v Sorrento
BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens
Sat 19 Jun 3PM Mandurah City v ECU Joondalup
Hyundai Stadium
Sun 20 Jun 3PM Armadale v Stirling Lions
Alfred Skeet Oval

Round 15
Sat 26 Jun 3PM ECU Joondalup v Western Knights
ECU Joondalup
Sat 26 Jun 3PM Sorrento v Swan United
Percy Doyle Reserve
Sat 26 Jun 3PM Inglewood United v Mandurah City
The Clipsal Stadium
Sat 26 Jun 3PM Cockburn City v Armadale
Dalmatinac Park
Sat 26 Jun 3PM Balcatta v Stirling Lions
Grindleford Reserve
Sun 27 Jun 3PM Floreat Athena v Perth SC
E & D Litis Stadium

Round 16
Sat 10 Jul 3PM Armadale v Sorrento
Alfred Skeet Oval
Sat 10 Jul 3PM Stirling Lions v Cockburn City
Macedonia Park
Sat 10 Jul 3PM Swan United v Floreat Athena
Swan Italian Club
Sat 10Jul 3PM Western Knights v Inglewood United
Nash Field
Sat 10 Jul 3PM Mandurah City v Balcatta
Hyundai Stadium
Sun 11 Jul 3PM Perth SC v ECU Joondalup
BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens

Round 17
Sat 17 Jul 3PM Floreat Athena v Armadale
E & D Litis Stadium
Sat 17 Jul 3PM ECU Joondalup v Swan United
ECU Joondalup
Sat 17 Jul 3PM Sorrento v Stirling Lions
Percy Doyle Reserve
Sat 17 Jul 3PM Inglewood United v Perth SC
The Clipsal Stadium
Sat 17 Jul 3PM Balcatta v Cockburn City
Grindleford Reserve
Sat 17 Jul 6PM Mandurah City v Western Knights
Hyundai Stadium

Round 18
Sat 31 Jul 3PM Armadale v ECU Joondalup
Alfred Skeet Oval
Sat 31 Jul 3PM Swan United v Inglewood United
Swan Italian Club
Sat 31 Jul 3PM Western Knights v Balcatta
Nash Field
Sat 31 Jul 3PM Perth SC v Mandurah City
BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens
Sat 31 Jul 3PM Cockburn City v Sorrento
Dalmatinac Park
Sun 1 Aug 3PM Stirling Lions v Floreat Athena
Macedonia Park

Round 19
Sat 7 Aug 3PM Floreat Athena v Cockburn City
E & D Litis Stadium
Sat 7 Aug 3PM ECU Joondalup v Stirling Lions
ECU Joondalup
Sat 7 Aug 3PM Western Knights v Perth SC
Nash Field
Sat 7 Aug 3PM Inglewood United v Armadale
The Clipsal Stadium
Sat 7 Aug 3PM Mandurah City v Swan United
Hyundai Stadium
Sat 7 Aug 3PM Balcatta v Sorrento
Grindleford Reserve

Round 20
Sat 14 Aug 3PM Armadale v Mandurah City
Alfred Skeet Oval
Sat 14 Aug 3PM Sorrento v Floreat Athena
Percy Doyle Reserve
Sat 14 Aug 3PM Stirling Lions v Inglewood United
Macedonia Park
Sat 14 Aug 3PM Swan United v Western Knights
Swan Italian Club
Sat 14 Aug 3PM Cockburn City v ECU Joondalup
Dalmatinac Park
Sun 15 Aug 3PM Perth SC v Balcatta
BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens

Round 21
Sat 28 Aug 3PM ECU Joondalup v Sorrento
ECU Joondalup
Sat 28 Aug 3PM Western Knights v Armadale
Nash Field
Sat 28 Aug 3PM Inglewood United v Cockburn City
The Clipsal Stadium
2 Sat 8 Aug 3PM Perth SC v Swan United
BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens
28 Aug 6PM Mandurah City v Stirling Lions
Hyundai Stadium
Sun 29 Aug 3PM Balcatta v Floreat Athena
Grindleford Reserve

Round 22
Sat 4 Sep 3PM Floreat Athena v ECU Joondalup
E & D Litis Stadium
Sat 4 Sep 3PM Armadale v Perth SC
Alfred Skeet Oval
Sat 4 Sep 3PM Sorrento v Inglewood United
Percy Doyle Reserve
Sat 4 Sep 3PM Stirling Lions v Western Knights
Macedonia Park
Sat 4 Sep 3PM Swan United v Balcatta
Swan Italian Club
Sat 4 Sep 3PM Cockburn City v Mandurah City
Dalmatinac Park

RECENT WA CHAMPIONS

2000 Fremantle City

2001 Sorrento

2002 Perth

2003 Perth

2004 Western Knights

2005 Perth

2006 Sorrento

2007 Floreat Athena

2008 Sorrento

2009 Perth

MOST WA TITLES

9 - Perth Azzurri

1 - Perth (Perth Italia)

6 - Stirling Lions (West Perth/ Stirling Macedonia)

5 - East Fremantle Tricolore

4 - Floreat Athena

3 - Cockburn City (Spearwood Dalmatinac)

2 - Kingsway Olympic

1 - Morley Windmills

1 - Western Knights

1 - Forrestfield United (Ascot)

1 - ECU Joondalup

1 - Fremantle City

1 - Inglewood United (Inglewood Falcons)

1 - Swan Cracovia

Best of the West set for battle

By Jacob Kragi

THE 2010 Football West State Premier League is shaping up to be one of the best seasons yet. With interest in the league at its highest point for many years, a close competition is predicted by most pundits.

Defending champions **Perth SC** will be optimistic of retaining the title this season, with most of its strong squad from last season retained, while last season's minor premiers, **Western Knights**, have a good chance of avenging its defeat in the Flexible Signage Solutions Championship Playoff Grand Final. Soccer Pools Cup holders **Floreat Athena** are also serious title contenders, while a tight battle looms at the other end of the table, with Swan United, Armadale and Balcatta tipped to fight out the relegation battle by many.

Perth SC backed up its victory in the Grand Final with success in the Bam Creative Night Series, the league's pre-season competition. It defeated Western Knights in the final 2-1, in a miraculous comeback which saw it score twice in the last six minutes. That success will make Graham Normanton's side, which contains several of the league's best players, including Trent Kay, Shaun Kilkelly and Ian McMurray, confident of keeping the Premier League trophy at Dorrien Gardens.

2009 was a somewhat disappointing campaign for Floreat Athena in the league. It finished in third, 13 points off the title, before losing to the Knights in a penalty shootout in the Preliminary Final. However, Athena showed its class by winning the Soccer Pools Cup, beating Inglewood United 3-1 in the final. Floreat sent a message to the league with excellent Night Series form, winning its three games in the group stage, before Western Knights defeated it 0-1 in the quarter finals. With quality coming from the likes of John Migas and Branimir Mikulic, Athena can be expected to mount a serious title challenge.

Western Knights will certainly be regarded as one of the favourites to claim the minor premiership and the championship this year. It finished top of the league last season, having dropped points in just six of its 22 games, before it lost the Grand Final to Perth.

The Knights also were exceptional in the Night Series, making it to the final



Start your engines! The WA season commences this weekend. PHOTO: FOOTBALL WEST

before falling to a classic Perth comeback. Despite the heartache of those two losses, the Knights still boast a side with immense talent, including David Annall, Daniel and David Micevski and new recruit Paul Van Dongen.

Stirling Lions would have been frustrated with its results last season. It had a side regarded by many as one of the best on paper, but finished only fifth in the league, before losing to Mandurah City in the first round of the finals, and was knocked out of the Cup by fierce rivals Floreat at the semi-final stage. The Lions will be hopeful of some improvement this year, despite disappointing Night Series form which saw it finish bottom of its group with three points from three games. The minor premiership might still be out of reach, but success in the Cup or finals series is realistic.

After it narrowly missed a finals spot last year, **Sorrento** will be desperate to reach the top five in this campaign. The Gulls fell one point short in 2009, finishing sixth. It was regarded as underachievers in many circles last year, and despite

the loss of a couple of key players, the champions from 2006 and 2008 should do enough to make it this time under coach Steve Neville.

Mandurah City's fairytale rise through the ranks of the State League continued last year, having made it to the minor semi-final after finishing fourth. City was in the second tier of amateur football in the state in 2000, before reached the Semi-Professional ranks in 2002 and won promotion to the Premier League for the 2008 season. Its two seasons in the top tier have been very successful, with a fifth placed finish in 2008 improved on last season. In recent years, much of the rise has been due to coach Stuart Currie, who led the team up from the First Division, and central midfielder Andy Brown, who finished third in the Gold Medal count last year, and is set to be a key player again this year for a side which should challenge for a finals spot.

ECU Joondalup narrowly avoided relegation in 2008 but improved significantly to finish eighth last season. It should again be clear from the relegation

battle, but a push for the finals is most likely another year away. It will have to reverse its away form to meet expectations this year, after it collected just nine points on the road last year. Joondalup made it to the semi-finals of the Night Series before it lost 1-3 to Perth, showing it does have the potential to do well, but a mid-table finish is probable.

Inglewood United hasn't finished higher than fourth since 1996, and impatience is quickly growing from the fans at Clipsal Stadium. The highlight of last season was clearly a run to the Soccer Pools Cup final, where it lost to Floreat. United's seventh-place finish in the league didn't meet expectations, although it missed finals action by only one point. Despite possessing a talented squad, Lee Bamber's side showed little hope of improvement with a disappointing Night Series campaign, and Inglewood will struggle to make the top five.

Finishing 11th was not acceptable for **Cockburn City** last season, and its fans are demanding improvement this season. City showed a better finish is likely with

good form in the Night Series, which saw it win its group with six points from three games before falling in the Quarter Finals. Expect Mirco Jelacic's side to be safely above relegation, though a finish in the bottom half is still expected.

Newly promoted **Balcatta** were virtually unstoppable in the First Division last season, losing only twice on its way to the title. It gave its fans even more reason to be optimistic when it went undefeated through the group stage of the Night Series, finishing first in its group before losing to Sorrento in the Quarter Finals. Sal Todaro's side won't find life in the Premier League easy, but it should still be strong enough to avoid relegation.

Armadale has never found Premier League life easy, finishing no higher than 10th in its five seasons. Nonetheless, the club has found a way to avoid relegation each year, and should do so again by a narrow margin. Brad Hassell's side only won three games at home last year, and it will have to make Alfred Skeet Oval more of a fortress in order to ensure safety. Despite most pundits tipping it for relegation every year, Armadale always finds a way to escape and should do it in a thrilling finish to the season once again.

Since 2000, **Swan United** has been in the Premier League, a streak which is in danger of ending this season. United finished ninth in 2008, but Paul Lincoln's side is viewed as one with real potential to fall this year. Inconsistent Night Series form, which saw it beat Stirling 4-0 in its first game before falling to Perth and Cockburn 0-7 and 1-3 respectively, did little to remove these concerns. In a season where the relegation battle is very much up in the air, Swan is likely to find itself struggling to avoid the reality of life in the First Division after this season.

The Premier League season kicks off this Saturday, will several enthralling games including Mandurah City's trip to Floreat Athena and Armadale to face Balcatta in a potential relegation battle. Other fixtures see Swan host Stirling, Western Knights meet Sorrento and ECU Joondalup travel to Inglewood United, before Perth SC play Cockburn City on Sunday.

First Blood to Perth

By Ashley Morrison

THE 2010 final of the Bam creative Night series saw last year's Grand Finalists oppose each other again, Perth against the Western Knights. Although a new sponsor was on board, and the tournament was structured differently, Perth was looking for their fifth consecutive title.

The Western Knights who had been totally outplayed in the Grand Final dominated from the opening whistle and were stroking the ball around well, and controlling the midfield.

However they were almost caught out when Robbie Puca took a quick free kick in the ninth minute and fed Sharland wide on the left, he crossed, but Frazer Siddall came off his line and smothered at the feet of MacMurray.

A minute later Puca found Onoforo on the opposite wing, and MacMurray struck his low cross first time, and Siddall's reflexes pushed the ball onto the post before he gathered the ball safely.

Martino in goal for Perth had beaten away a drive from the edge of the box by Van Dongen in the 22nd minute, but was left stranded just three minutes later. Captain David Annall carried the ball forward for the Knights, passed to Trim, who in acres of space, turned and slipped a pass through for Montgomery, Kay missed his chance to clear, and Montgomery fired the ball home past a static Martino.

The Knights should have doubled their lead before half time, Trim again the provider, this time finding Versaico in space, but he put his free header over the cross bar.

Within a minute he almost paid for his profligacy, a corner to Perth found De Felice at the back post, but he put his header the wrong side of the post.

The start of the second half saw the Knights continue where they had left off in the first. As early as the 49th minute Daniel Trim could have doubled the lead for the Knights but he had an air swing from all of seven metres.

In the 55th minute Van Dongen broke down the left for the Knights and delivered a pinpoint cross for Versaico, but Martino superbly tipped his goal bound header over the cross bar.

Versaico was in dominant form and a few minutes later he went on a mazy run down the right, crossed to Trim at the back post. The tall Trim was aware of his surroundings and nodded the ball back into the path of the advancing Price, but he rushed his effort and it sailed over the cross bar.

Perth's Danskin was forced from the field when there was an unfortunate clash of heads and with blood streaming from the wound was replaced by Wilson, but still the Knights dominated.

In the 84th minute Perth won a free kick at the edge of the Knights box, when Price foolishly hand balled when danger looked to have been averted. Up stepped Sharland, who spotted Siddall a long way off his line, and curled his free kick over the seven man wall, and Siddall, and into the back of the net. Had



Siddall been on his line the ball would have come straight to him.

Tempers started to flare and there was a flurry of yellow cards. With four minutes to go Daniel Micevski picked up one when he lost the ball trying to dribble out of defence. Another free kick at the edge of the box was awarded. Sharland stepped up again.

This time his effort bounced in front of Siddall who could not hold the shot. He parried it forward and then saved bravely at the feet of De Felice, but the ball spun

up, and MacMurray was first to react and headed home Perth's winner.

If that was hard to take for the Knights who had dominated all evening, the inexplicable seven minutes of time added on saw Daniel Micevski receive a second yellow card and an early shower.

There is a real rivalry building between these two clubs, and the passion that already exists will only have been fuelled further by the fact that only three Knights' players waited to see Perth collect the trophy.



Last eight known in Federation Cup

By Russ Gibbs

The quarter final line-up for the Project Coordination Federation Cup was completed on the weekend with the final round of Pool action in the men’s competition and, despite some near-misses, the last eight comprises of all Gatorade Premier League clubs.

It was a close run thing though, particularly in Pool D where Woden Valley were forced to come from 3-0 down to ACTAS to claim the point required to ensure their qualification at the expense of their opponents. Daniel Barac, Jakob Williams and a Jason Ugrinic penalty had given the Academy team a fantastic start, but Woden hit back with three goals in the space of five minutes either side of the interval. Kole Aitken bagged the first of his brace on the stroke of half-time and claimed his second four minutes after the re-start. In between Simon Hinde had struck Woden’s second in an enthralling clash.

ANU FC joined Woden in the quarter finals from Pool D after they were awarded their tie with Narrabundah 3-0 on forfeit after ‘Narra’ were unable to raise a team due to cricket commitments and a wedding. The students therefore topped Pool D with nine points and will face Pool C runner’s-up Cooma Tigers for a spot in the semi-final after the Tigers won their make-or-break clash with White Eagles 3-1.

Cooma were thankful to goals from Daniel Gecic, Goran Josifovski and Marcel Munoz to see off last season’s surprise semi-finalists who were eliminated from the competition following the loss. Andrew Menegazzo’s fourth goal of the cup was scant consolation for the beaten Eagles.

Joining the Tigers in the quarter finals are Pool winners Goulburn Strikers. The Strikers knew a point against Woden Val-



Canberra City’s Misko Naumoski scored a brace on the weekend.

ley Rivals would be enough to see them through but Carlo Aliffi’s team were stunned by the winless Rivals taking the lead through Shaun Hagen, shortly before the match was held up after a horrific injury to the scorer that resulted in a trip to the hospital.

The Strikers responded well and a brace of goals from Brody Willis were added to by strikes from Daniel Aliffi and Nicky Rogers as Goulburn comfortably scored their second win in three matches.

In the Pool A – Pool B crossover supporters are in for a treat as the top four from last season’s Premier League clash in the quarter finals. Champions, and Federation Cup holders, Canberra FC clinched second spot in Pool B after a 4-2 win over bottom club Tuggeranong United. A Michael Spaleta hat-trick did most of the damage for Canberra FC who also saw Paul Ivanic on the score sheet. United’s response through Luke Shepherd and Tim Ireson, via a penalty, was spirited but not quite enough.

Earlier in the afternoon Belconnen United had clinched top spot on the ladder, barring Canberra FC winning by eight clear goals, after outclassing Weston Creek 3-0. Veteran striker Danny Macor bagged a double and young tyro Tai Smith added the third as the beaten Grand Finalists marched on. The Blue Devils will now line-up against Pool A runners-up Canberra Olympic in what promises to be an absolute belter of a match.

Olympic had secured second place in Pool A following a 5-2 success over ANU FC (Premier Pathway League). Needing a win to progress Olympic were always in command of the match with goals flowing at regular intervals. Matt Cachia, Scott Barsley, Billy Sgouros, Andrew Ross and Yianni Karabalis celebrated Olympic goals whilst Pete Spiller, with his third goal in two matches, and Alex Barnes responded for the Pathway team.

The victory wasn’t enough for Olympic to top the group through as Canberra City continued their excellent form with a 5-0 win over struggling Monaro Panthers. Misko Naumoski struck twice, taking his competition tally to four, and the diminutive forward was joined amongst the goals by Euan Peterkin, David Dexter and Simon Gemmell. City now have the dubious privilege of facing off against Canberra FC in their quarter final clash.

Meanwhile powerhouses Belwest Foxes and Woden Valley have continued their serene progress into the semi-finals of the Women’s Project Coordination Federation Cup with comfortable final pool match wins.

Both teams have yet to concede a goal in three matches with the Foxes having scored fifteen times to Woden Valley’s twelve and seem set for a collision course in the Grand Final. Firstly though, both will need to get past their semi-final opposition.

The Foxes, who defeated Belconnen United 4-0 to top Pool A, will play Premier League newcomers Tuggeranong United who surprisingly made their way through Pool B at the expense of the traditionally strong Weston Creek. United had defeated Weston 1-0 earlier in the competition and just needed to win their last match against Brindabella Blues to progress, which they did with some ease winning 8-0. Frejya Jacobsen led the way with a hat-trick whilst Julie Ibarra weighed in with a brace of her own.

A brace of goals from 2009 ACT Women’s Player of the Year, Grace Field, ensured Woden signed off the Pool stages with a 2-0 win over Weston Creek whilst over in Pool A Cian Maciejewski, who plays in the W-League for Canberra United, struck three, upping her tournament total to seven and confirming her as leading scorer, in the Foxes 4-0 win. Maciejewski’s Canberra United team mates Snež Veljanovska added the final goal, her fifth of the competition.

In the dead-rubber between Canberra FC and ANU WFC, Canberra FC won 2-0 thanks to goals from Grace Gill, another Canberra United W-League player, and Aurelia Bullott.

POOL A
Canberra Olympic 5 (Matt Cachia, Andrew Ross, Yianni Karabalis, Scott Barsley, Billy Sgouros) defeated ANU FC (PPL) 2 (Alex Barnes, Pete Spiller)

Canberra City 5 (Misko Naumoski (2), Euan Peterkin, Scott Gemmell, David Dexter) defeated Monaro Panthers 0	P W D L F A GD PTS
1 Canberra City	3 3 0 0 12 2 +10 9
1 Canberra Olympic	3 2 0 1 15 7 +8 6
3 ANU FC (PPL)	3 1 0 2 6 10 -4 3
4 Monaro Panthers	3 0 0 3 3 17 -14 0

POOL B
Belconnen United 3 (Danny Macor (2), Tai Smith) defeated Weston Creek 0

Canberra FC 4 (Michael Spaleta (3), Paul Ivanic) defeated Tuggeranong United 2 (Luke Shepherd, Tim Ireson (pen))	P W D L F A GD PTS
1 Belconnen Utd	3 2 1 0 12 2 +10 7
2 Canberra FC	3 2 1 0 9 4 +5 7
3 Weston Creek	3 1 0 2 2 7 -5 3
4 Tuggeranong Utd	3 0 0 3 3 13 -10 0

POOL C
Goulburn Strikers 4 (Brody Willis (2), Daniel Aliffi, Nicky Rogers) defeated Woden Valley Rivals 1 (Shaun Hagen)

Cooma Tigers 3 (Daniel Gecic, Goran Josifovski, Marcel Munoz) defeated White Eagles 1 (Andrew Menegazo)	P W D L F A GD PTS
1 Goulburn Strik	3 2 1 0 6 2 +4 7
2 Cooma Tigers	3 2 0 1 7 4 +3 6
3 White Eagles	3 1 1 1 9 4 +5 4
4 Woden Valley	3 0 0 3 3 14 -11 0

POOL D
ANU FC 3 defeated Narrabundah 0 (forfeit – Narrabundah unable to field a team)

ACTAS 3 (Daniel Barac, Jakob Williams, Jason Ugrinic) drew with Woden Valley 3 (Kole Aitken (2), Simon Hinde)	P W D L F A GD PTS
1 ANU FC	2 2 0 0 9 3 +6 6
2 Woden Valley	2 1 0 1 8 7 +1 3
3 ACTAS	2 1 0 1 5 7 -2 3
4 Narrabundah	2 0 0 2 5 10 -5 0

LEADING GOALSCORERS (after Round Two)
6 Lukas COLE (Woden Valley)
4 Misko NAUMOSKI (Canberra City), Michael SPLA-ETA (Canberra FC), Yianni KARABALIS (Canberra Olympic), Petar JOSIFOVSKI, Andrew MENEGAZZO (both White Eagles)

Quarter Final Draw (provisional)
ANU FC v Cooma Tigers
Woden Valley v Goulburn Strikers
Canberra City v Canberra FC
Canberra Olympic v Belconnen United

Women’s Project Coordination Cup – Semi-Finals
Belwest Foxes v Tuggeranong United
Woden Valley v Belconnen United



COUCH POTATO DEPT.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



Monday 15th March
SBS One - 5:30 pm Futbol Mundial

Wednesday 17th March
SBS ONE - 6.30am LIVE - Chelsea v Inter

SBS TWO
8.30pm Rpt - Chelsea v Inter Milan
10.00pm Delayed - Sevilla v CSKA Moscow

Thursday 18th March
SBS ONE
6.30am LIVE - Bordeaux v Olympiacos

SBS TWO
8.30pm DELAYED - Barcelona v Stuttgart

Friday 19 March 2010
SBS ONE
6.45am UEFA Europa League - Live
Liverpool v Lille
10:00 pm UEFA Champions League Hour

SBS TWO
7:30 pm UEFA Champions League Hour
8.30pm UEFA Europa League - Delayed - Sporting Lisbon v Atletico Madrid

Sun 14th March
3:00 pm UEFA Europa League
3:30 pm UEFA Champions League
4:00 pm Les Murray’s Football
5:00 pm The World Game



Monday 15th March
9am Bundesliga Hoffenheim vs Werder Bremen
10:45am Eredivisie Ajax vs PSV
2:15pm Lille vs Grenoble
4pm Russian Premier Rubin Kazan vs Lokomotiv Moscow

Thursday 18th March
11:45am Copa Libertadores Cerro Porteno vs Corinthians LIVE
3:30pm Bundesliga Preview Show
7pm J-League Highlights Show

Saturday 20th March
5:30am Ligue 1 Preview Show
6:30am Bundesliga FC Koln vs Monchengladbach LIVE
9pm J-League FC Tokyo vs Cerezo Osaka LIVE
11:15pm SPL Hearts vs Hibernian LIVE
12pm Copa Libertadores Highlights Show

Sunday 21st March
2am SPL Celtic vs St Johnstone LIVE
4:30am Bundesliga Bor Dortmund vs Bayer Leverkusen LIVE
6:40am Serie A Palermo vs Internazionale LIVE
9:15am Eredivisie PSV vs FC Twente
2:30pm Russian Premier League Saturn vs Sibir
4:45pm Ligue 1 Rennes vs Toulouse
6:30pm Ligue 1 Lens vs Sochaux
10:30pm Eredivisie Waalwijk vs Ajax LIVE

Monday 22nd March
1:30am Scottish League Cup Final Rangers vs St Mirren LIVE
5am Russian Premier Zenit St Petersburg vs Spartak Moscow
6:40am Serie A Sampdoria vs Juventus LIVE
9am Bundesliga Hamburg vs Schalke
10:45am Bundesliga Wolfsburg vs Hertha Berlin
2:45pm Bundesliga Highlights Show
5:45pm Serie A Highlights Show
6:30pm Ligue 1 Highlights Show



Monday 15th March 2010
10:00 pm World Football News
11:00 pm Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
12:10 am The Serie A Highlights Show

Tuesday 16th March 2010
06:30 am Football: Serie A Matchday 28 - Udinese V Palermo

Wednesday 17th March 2010
06:30 am Football: Bundesliga (Rpt) Matchday 26 - Borussia Monchengladbach V Wolfsburg

Thursday 18th March 2010
02:00 pm Bundesliga Weekly Highlights (Rpt)
03:10 pm The Serie A Highlights Show (Rpt)

Monday 22nd March 2010
10:00 am Football: Bundesliga Matchday 27 - Eintracht Frankfurt V Bayern Munich



WEEK 31
Tues Mar 16 Liverpool v Portsmouth 6.55 am (Fox 3)
Wed Mar 17 Wigan v Aston Villa 6.40 am (Fox 3)

WEEK 32
Sat Mar 20 Aston Villa v Wolves 11.40 pm (Fox 3)
Sun Mar 21 Stoke v Tottenham 1.55 am (Fox 3)
Sun Mar 21 Everton v Bolton 1.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 21 Portsmouth v Hull 1.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 21 Sunderland v Birmingham 1.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 21 Wigan v Burnley 1.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 21 Arsenal v West Ham 4.25 am (Fox 3)
Mon Mar 22 Manchester United v Liverpool 12.25 am (Fox 3)
Mon Mar 22 Fulham v Manchester City 1.55 am (Fox 2)
Mon Mar 22 Blackburn v Chelsea 2.55 am (Fox 3)



The Futbol Town Show
Every Monday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Wednesday 8pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

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PREMIERSHIP

ROUND 21 REVIEW

EST. 2006

Title to be decided in final round

By Adam Hussein

Albert Park FC 7 vs. 11 Metro FC
Round 21 clashes got underway at the Victorian Futsal Stadium with arch rivals Albert Park taking on Metropolitan. It was a high scoring affair with Metropolitan always in control. The Redzepovic brothers were in fine form, Alija scored four and Dino scored a double. Ricardo Castro scored three and looked threatening creating most of the play. Both goalkeepers were quite rusty with Jason Ng and Brendan Chen both back from holidays. Albert Park is happy just to be apart of the V-League judged on this performance with Ignjat Filipovic flat & Goran Buzanin appearing disinterested, Dejan Dragic mildy adventurous & Minja Savic showing slight flashes of brilliance. 11-7 in the end, Metropolitan is a high scoring team that are susceptible at the back which could be risky going into the Souvlaki Hut cup.

North Melb FC 9 vs. 1 Doncaster FC
Title chasing North Melbourne needed to keep the pressure on Pascoe Vale by beating Doncaster FC. They fought out a 3 all draw in their previous encounter and Doncaster posed North several problems early on. Giannikos (DFC) who has lead the line for Doncaster all season was dangerous on numerous encounters, Doncaster went into the break 2-1 down but definitely not out of the encounter. It took North talisman Fernando De Moraes a while to



With only one win away from securing Pascoe Vale FC's first premiership title, Ernie Simsek gives the thumbs up.

find his feet, but when he did he found 7 goals and blasted through Doncaster's defensive resistance and a helpless Con Makris in goal. Waterfield & Kui Mu chipped in with solitary goals to seal the deal. Doncaster bottom of the table is in hot water with immediate relegation from the V-League looming.

FC Prahran 6 vs. 5 FC Essendon
Cup winners FC Prahran minus top goal scorer Haider Noor took on the champions FC Essendon in the cup final replay. Maxi Avram was on target early, gliding over the court spurring FC Prahran on. They were 4-0 up at half time as slow starters Essendon took a while to get going. They finally did in the second half with Alexander scoring a brace to help his chances of winning the golden boot. The second half was a real tussle, and Essendon surged late in the half. They lost 6-5 in the end but have played in-

credibly well in the previous 4 weeks with some efforts reminiscent of their title winning run last season. It wasn't enough to beat exuberant Prahran; both sides have had steady seasons and can look forward to the cup.

Fitzroy FC 8 vs. 3 FC Carlton
The hotly anticipated clash between 3rd vs. 4th placed V-League sides was a one sided affair as Fitzroy swept away Carlton. Dimitri Vithoulkas (FFC) scored a bag of 4 & Ahmed Azzam added a double which left Fitzroy rueing dropped points against Geelong & Pascoe Vale in vital title challenging encounters. Hussein started in goal as Gavanino Exaehouleas was stuck in inner city traffic. Turhan Sumbl made a stunning debut for Fitzroy, Luciano Bessa made a solid return & Leonardo Correa was relentless rarely giving the ball away. Carlton was relatively flat which was probably due to a combination of training outdoors and the latter stages of the V-League season taking its toll. Hamid Hassinakhoo was the only shining light and he was rarely supported from a full strength Carlton side that was only missing lively Brenno Polatti.

Melb University 4 vs. 3 Ashburton
The shock upset of the night saw cellar dwellers; Melbourne University beat Vic Men's Coach Paul Vidic's Ashburton young guns. Melbourne University played the game of their lives 20 rounds late as Duva & Dahwan scored valuable doubles, the latter, two carbon copy target man turn and polished finishes into

the top right hand corner. MU lead 2-1 at half time. Ashburton were in disarray, missing suspended Spijodic (6 yellows). Rudi Prosic was good in goal for Ashburton & Dixon was valuable as he scored three super goals, the last a top left hand corner scorcher to equalise at 3 all. Ashburton have fallen away in the latter stage of the season with some poor results, Melbourne University may have just saved themselves from immediate relegation yet again but they won't know for sure until Doncaster play Geelong next week.

Pascoe Vale FC 5 vs. 2 FC Geelong
The brewing crowd couldn't wait for the last clash of the night as table toppers Pascoe Vale took on giant killers Geelong who had given every team a real go in the second half of the season. Simon Lamanda was in scintillating goal scoring form and he scored three precious goals, debutant Alex Arregen contributed with a solid goal and so did seasoned campaigner Tomislav Grigic. They put Geelong to the sword early who had Ryan Calder calling the shots from the sideline for the Cats and he did a good job keeping the lads happy as the side had been frustrated with substitutions in the previous two weeks. Sheen scored a corker but it wasn't enough for helpless Geelong who need to beat Doncaster next week to finish 9th and avoid strong state league opposition in the upcoming V-League qualifiers. Pascoe Vale is only one victory away from clenching the illustrious V-League premiership trophy and the \$5000 that comes with it.

LADDER												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P				
1 Pascoe Vale FC	21	16	1	4	151	96	55	49				
2 Nth Melb FC	21	15	2	4	152	78	74	47				
3 Fitzroy FC	21	14	2	5	143	86	57	44				
4 FC Carlton	21	11	5	5	97	76	21	38				
5 FC Prahran	21	11	5	5	123	103	20	38				
6 Ashburton FC	21	10	1	10	107	103	4	31				
7 Metropolitan FC	21	9	2	10	124	104	20	29				
8 FC Essendon	21	8	2	11	123	134	-11	26				
9 Albert Park FC	21	7	1	13	107	140	-33	22				
10 FC Geelong	21	6	3	12	67	131	-64	21				
11 Melb Uni FC	20	3	1	16	62	131	-69	10				
12 Doncaster FC	20	2	1	17	63	137	-74	7				

Rd 21 Results

Wed Mar 10

Metropolitan FC v Albert Park FC 11 - 7
Nth Melbourne FC v Doncaster FC 9 - 1
FC Prahran v FC Essendon 6 - 5
Fitzroy FC v FC Carlton 8 - 3
Melb Uni FC v Ashburton FC 4 - 3

Rd 22 Clashes

Wed Mar 17

6:30 Melb Uni FC v FC Essendon
7:15 Pascoe Vale FC v Albert Park FC
8:00 Metropolitan FC v FC Carlton
8:45 Fitzroy FC v FC Prahran
9:30 Ashburton FC v Nth Melbourne FC
10:15 Doncaster FC v FC Geelong

Catch up Round

Wed Mar 24

8:00 Melb Uni FC v Doncaster FC

Top Scorers

1. A.Redzepovic MFC 54 goals
2. A.Stevanovic FCE 53 goals
3. H.Noar FCP 48 goals
4. F.De Moreas NMFC 47 goals
5. J.Blackburn FFC 43 goals

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FC Prahran 2009 FOz Cup winners, will end up mid table in the premiership, but will relish defending the 2009-10 FOz Cup title.



Fitzroy FC's utility, Ahmed Azzam, sinks FC Carlton in local derby, but leave title chase too late. PHOTOS BY MATT MONTGOMERY



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BENTLEIGH GREENS



1

ALTONA MAGIC



0

Greens KO champs

By Gordon Bennett

The round 3 Victorian Premier League opener saw new comers Bentleigh Greens hosting last years premiers Altona Magic. Both teams came into the match with two draws from their opening two matches meaning both were looking for their first win of the 2010 season.

Bentleigh after four years in State League 1 were eager to impress their fans and silence the skeptics. Altona too had something to prove after a poor start to the season according to their high standards. The match had a special meaning for the Greens

as it was to be held at their newly renovated ground which the Federal Government and the City of Kingston had invested \$3.2million in improving including with the new 800 seat grand stand, coach boxes and state of the art electric scoreboard getting their first test runs.

In front of a crowd of 700 people at the newly renovated Kingston Heath Soccer Facility it was the Greens who got their first win of the season taking the match 1-0 in an emotionally charged and entertaining encounter. The winning goal came from the boot of Bentleigh striker Damir Lokvancic in the 45th minute.

The first half was extremely tight with both teams press-

ing hard in attack but defensive stamina holding sway. A few uncomfortable saves from Bentleigh goalkeeper and captain Peter Gavales kept the Altona strikers at bay but not for a want of trying. It was not until John Sapovski completed an excellent cross into the box and with a little bit of luck and some wrong footing from the Altona goal keeper, Lokvancic was able to capitalize and tap the ball into the back of the net which would end up being the winning goal.

Both teams had their chances in the second half but it was the Greens who squandered the most lucrative of them. A few poor choice passes and some unlucky shots meant that the second half

destined to be scoreless and the defending premiers would walk away winless after three games and Bentleigh would secure their first top tier win in over 4 years. The silver lining for teams was that their were no bookings and no severe injuries meaning both squads are available for next weeks matches.

Bentleigh next week travel to Sunshine Georgies on Sunday (Knights Stadium kick off at 7pm) while Altona host last years State League 1 champions Northcote City also this Sunday (Paisley Park Soccer Complex kick off at 3pm).



Bentleigh's Damir Lokvancic gets the rub of the green to score at the near post in the 45th minute and floor Altona Magic. PHOTO: PETER KAKALIAS

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GREEN GULLY



1

OAKLEIGH CANNONS



2

Match Details:

Green Gully:

K.Gerohchristodoulou, S.Burton, D.Fak(J.Groenewald), C.Drake, J.Fleming, G.Wales, G.Hockless, N.Robinson(R.Ollerton), M.Medjedovic, A.Vargas, J.Munoz(M.Anderson).

Oakleigh:

S.Agustin, J.Cumming, S.Drakos, N.Antic, J.Fitzgerald, S.Webster, B.Damianos, C.Watson, B.Ceradovic, J.Karpeh, M.Curcija(R.Diac).

Green Gully: 1

Goals: Steven Burton (penalty) '60

Yellows: Fleming '31, Hockless '68

Oakleigh: 2

Goals: Damianos '20, Curcija '63.

Yellows: Webster '30

Man of the Match: Bill Damianos

Crowd: 500



VPL action between Gully and Cannons.

PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



Have shooting boots, will travel. Michael Curcija shows he has a nose for goal regardless of where he plays.. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

Cannons sink Gully

By Markian Jaworsky

The Cavaliers started the match promisingly, and could well have been ahead from equal top scorer Steven Burton, when he was found dead in front of goal, controlled the ball well, but just couldn't get enough on the ball to squeeze it either side or over Oakleigh goalkeeper Scott Agustin. On twenty minutes, Bill Damianos broke the deadlock, with

a stunning goal from just outside the Green Gully penalty box.

Just prior to that move, Jerry Karpeh got passed Gully goalkeeper Nikola Roganovic, but was undone by Green Gully's defense. Gary Wales was busy up forward for Gully and had a couple of attempts on goal just prior to half-time, but the Cannons wee more than happy to go into the halftime break leading 2 goals to 1.

In the second half, Gully midfielders Burton, Fleming, Vargas and Hockless

were all eager to turn their fortunes around, and were given a get out of jail card on the hour, when a penalty was awarded to Green Gully. Steven Burton converted the spot kick to make it two goals in two games, however Oakleigh quickly restored their lead via Michael Curcija, who converted a speculative long range freekick from Oakleigh's Cameron Watson.

Speaking after the match, Oakleigh coach Jon Anastasiadas claimed there were no longer easy games in the VPL.

"Teams have become so evenly balanced in the VPL now that every week is (predictably) tough match." Green Gully captain Jeffrey Fleming could not remember a season in his time at Green Gully when the team lost their first two home matches, and was apologetic to home supporters for recent results.



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NORTHCOTE CITY



3

SOUTH MELBOURNE



3

Match Details

Line-ups:

Northcote City:
C.Theodoridis-Petro-
poulos, H.D'Agostino,
G.Papadopoulos,
A.Chiappetta, B.Norton,
N.Curtis, N.Tzoulis
(J.Voulgaris 70'),
T.Rixon (J.Kalifatidis
73'), A.Turer (M.Rosano
77'), J.Theofilopoulos,
H.Kinigopoulos

Scorers: N Tzoulis 27',
T.Rixon 41', T.Rixon 45+2'
Yellow cards: H.A'Agostino
67'
Red cards: None

South Melbourne:
S.Sardelic, R.Tavsancioglu,
G.De Nittis (J.Youssef 55'),
M.Gasparis (S. Petrovic
70'), S.O'Dor, D.Vasilevski,
E.Cetkin, S.Mrkela,Y.
Yusuf (S. Vranesivic 60'),
C.Recchia, F.De Moraes,

Scorers: F.De Moraes 11',
D.Vasilevski 64', 84'
Yellow cards: S.Petrovic 79'
Red cards: None

Man of the Match:
D.Vasilevski

Venue: John Cain Memorial
Park
Crowd: 1,500



Trent Rixon is all smiles after scoring his second goal just before half-time. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Carl Recchia (South Melbourne) has an awkward ball to deal with as George Papadopoulos moves in to challenge. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

6 goals, 2 braces, 1 draw – Football the Winner

By Tony Persoglia

Northcote City and South Melbourne staged an entertaining 3-3 draw in front of bumper crowd at John Cain Memorial Park on Saturday afternoon. This was the first time that both clubs had met in official league competition, and the match provided the 1,500 spectators with plenty of attacking football.

After impressive displays away from home in the first two rounds, Peter Tsoulakis retained the same starting lineup from the previous week, and his charges settled early, Trent Rixon almost giving city the perfect start when his turn and left-foot strike skimmed the top of the cross bar in the 5th minute.

However, despite struggling to secure possession, South Melbourne opened the scoring through a touch of brilliance from Fernando De Moraes.

The Futsalroo unleashed a speculative drive from 25 yards that left Chris Petropoulos with no chance as the visi-

tors took the early lead.

The goal appeared to spark Northcote City into action, with Rixon ever so close to equaling in the 15th minute after Ahmet Turer's fine work created space for the talismanic striker. It was Turer again who created another opportunity only five minutes later, Bradley Norton left to rue a guilt-edged chance.

The game was proving an open affair, and South were not without chances of their own, Marinos Gasparis and Yusuf Yusuf combining well in the 24th minute, only to see Yusuf squander his chance with some wayward finishing.

Nick Tzoulis and Norton forced further saves from the South Melbourne custodian, and in the 27th minute, a corner from Norton found the head of Rixon, who neatly brought the ball down to an anticipating Tzioulis who volleyed neatly to level the scores.

The home team were gaining in confidence and generating much forward momentum, and it was the dangerous Norton who again combined with his captain, Rixon drilling a fantastic left foot shot into the roof of the net in the

41st minute.

If the home fans were excited at the prospect of finally leading their rivals, Rixon sent them into raptures after he latched onto a superb through ball from George Papadopoulos. With poise and control, he slotted the ball superbly passed the keeper giving City a deserved 3-1 half-time lead.

South Melbourne was desperate for some answers to Northcote's attacking creativity, and Vaughn Coveney turned to the bench to find them, bringing Joseph Youssef and Sasha Vranesivic on in the early stages of the second half. Vranesivic looked lively down the right of midfield, and Youssef added some much needed bite up front.

It was the experienced trio of De Moraes and former Victory midfielders in Carl Recchia and Danny Vasilevski who ultimately brought the visitors back into calculations, a beautiful layoff from the Brazilian providing Vasilevski with time and space to strike forcefully from outside the box in the 64th minute.

The goal proved to be the momentum swinger, with Gasparis (66th

minute) and Vranesivic (77th minute) both forcing the City keeper into fine saves. Ultimately, it was the substitute in Youssef who delivered a fine cross to an unmarked Vasilevski who potted the equaliser in the 83rd minute. Now it was the turn of the visiting Clarendon Corner to find their full voice.

South assumed total control in the final stages, and De Moraes could have stolen it for the visitors in the 87th minute, but for a shot which sailed harmlessly over the crossbar.

The draw proved a fitting result, and despite being winless after three rounds, both teams should be commended for producing a thrilling brand of attacking football.

Northcote City hit the road again next Sunday, travelling to Paisley Park for an evening encounter with Altona Magic, who are no doubt smarting from defeat against the promoted Bentleigh Greens. South Melbourne will host Green Gully on Sunday afternoon at Bob Jane Stadium, the Cavaliers looking to bounce back from a home capitulation to the Cannons.

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DANDENONG THUNDER



0

RICHMOND EAGLES



3

Match Details

Team line-ups:

Dandenong Thunder:

Webster S., Sivic,E., Bahnsen, N. Rexhepi S., Wilford A., Bright J.(Bou-rakis, A.69'), Armenian H., Miller L. (Ibraim Ibraimi 60'), Davidson, R., Korcari, V (Avdullai, A. 60 '), Dilorio, J

Cards: Wilford (Red 70')

Richmond Eagles:

Gal, S., Viola, A. Karahan, E., Tsiaras, D., Krncevic, J., Visevic, D.(Lujic, M. 74'), Scullion, D., Uskok, T. (Piorkowski 58' ((Ryan, L.76'))), Catalano, M, Kovacic, A., Milardovic, T.

Scorers: Visevic, 12'; Krncevic, 19', 84'

Cards, Uskok Y 4'

Man of the Match: J. Krncevic

Crowd: 1,500



Eagles keepr Stepjan Gal hold his ground from the Thunder.

PHOTO BY ANITA MILAS



After finally receiving an international clearance Jesse Krncevic made a return to the VPL with a well taken brace. PHOTO BY ANITA MILAS

Eagles Gouge Wounded Thunder

By George Stogiannou

RICHMOND Eagles took off where they left last season at George Andrews, once again becoming the first visiting team to take all three points from Dandenong Thunder's stronghold with a convincing 3-0 win on Saturday evening.

Last season the Eagles achieved their 2-1 win in Rd 19 with a depleted squad, but on Saturday they were at full strength and flexed their muscle against a Thunder squad that was with-

out the experienced Lev Osman and Marcus Stergiopoulos.

Thunder made a bright start, but a deft Jess Krncevic backheel unlocked the Thunder defence and fellow striker Daniel Visevic, ran through the heart of the Dandenong back four to fire his team ahead with a potent left foot strike from the edge of the box in the 12th minute.

Seven minutes later, the Eagles struck again with another marvellous strike. This time, striker Krncevic capitalising on a midfield turnover by Thunder, took possession on the right flank and cut inside to unleash a 25 metre left

foot drive past Thunder keeper Stuart Webster.

As the half progressed, the visitors ably led by Dimi Tsiaras in the midfield were playing confident one touch football which made the home side's midfield and defence look flat and one dimensional at times.

At the back Richmond gave little away, allowing Thunder just one clear chance on the stroke of half time when midfielder Ryan Davidson struck a volley wide of the post following a corner. After the break, the home side went close to pulling a goal back in the first quarter of an hour but found the Eagles keeper Stjepan Gal blocking the way when he produced good saves to deny Joe Dilorio and then Davidson twice in the space of a minute.

With 20 minutes remaining Thunder's fortunes nosedived when the referee showed defender Aaron Wilford a straight red for a crude tackle from behind on Tsiaras, sparking a heated exchange between the two opposing benches and teams. After the feathers and dust had settled, a 10 man Thunder almost found an unlikely lifeline when Hamlet Armenian rattled the far post with his first time strike.

However three minutes later, Eagles striker Krncevic capped a man-of-the-match performance by outpacing the Thunder defence and keep his balance under pressure to slot the ball coolly past Webster.

Thunder sub Afrim Avdullai, went close with a header in the dying minutes, but the final whistle meant it was Dandenong's second 3-0 defeat in a row.

After the match, Thunder coach Stuart Munro commented, " The first

twenty minutes we were doing very well, but we obviously lost two goals which was absolutely devastating, and it was two individual mistakes which cost them....I was disappointed with the sending off because I thought it was no more than a yellow card if that. It's not a straight red. For a start the guy's made a real meal of it....I think the ensuing melee was more because of the sending off decision rather than the actual tackle. So that's why I was annoyed about that... We can't feel sorry for ourselves. Yes we've got personnel problems and now we've got Aaron (Wilford) suspended. But that's part of football. We've got to deal with that. We've just got to knuckle down, continue the hard work and try and play our strongest team each week."

Eagles coach Mike Chatzitritfonas, reflected afterwards, " For some kind of reason we seem to match up pretty well with Dandenong. To be honest, they had a couple of key players out and we were probably at full strength apart from Ross Antoniadis being unavailable. Just putting that team on the park gave everyone a bit more confidence in the way we approached the game... But I always felt that even at 2-0 they were still in the game. They had a couple of decent chances in the second half but overall we fully deserved the victory."

Next Friday, a confident Richmond will host Heidelberg United, whilst Thunder will have to regroup quickly for the trip down the line to league leader Oakleigh Cannons.



Argy Bargy: Eagles' coach Mike Chatzitritfonas and Thunder's Stuart Munro exchange heated words after a vicious tackle in front of the bench. Arron Wilford son received a red card for his efforts. PHOTO BY ANITA MILAS

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



2

SUNSHINE GEORGIES



2

Melbourne Knights 2 (Kevin Townson 38', Jean-Charles Dubois 41')
drew
Sunshine George Cross (Kyle Joryeff 33', 43')



Kevin Townsen equalisers for the Knights. Inset: Jean Charles Dubois also gets on the scoresheet
PHOTOS: STEVE STAREK

Honours even at Knights

By Luke Sheehan

MELBOURNE Knights and Sunshine George Cross played out a highly entertaining 2-2 derby at Knights Stadium on Sunday night, with the Knights several point blank chances to claim all three points in the dying stages.

Kevin Townson hit the woodwork from close range in injury time, one of many huge misses for the Knights that ultimately cost them their first win of the season.

George Cross' Kyle Joryeff opened the scoring against the run of play with a brilliant goal from outside the penalty area in the 33rd minute, which sparked the Knights into goalscoring action.

Goals to Townson and Jean-Charles Dubois in the following eight minutes quickly turned a Knights deficit into a deserved lead.

Joryeff had other ideas however, and was put through on goal courtesy of some brilliant forward pressure from Fiddell Richards, and the Sunshine number 28 fired his second to level it up in the 43rd minute, making for four goals in the space of ten minutes.

The Knights were on top early in the game, and forced numerous saves from Sunshine keeper Martin John, the best Melbourne chance fell to Bryan Bran who fired a shot across John, only to be denied.

The second half started accordingly for the Knights, with Josip Magdic ripping in a cross for Townson, only for the George Cross defence to put it behind for a corner.

Magdic had his own crack at scoring, first from the edge of the box in the 55th minute forcing another John save, and again in the 57th minute, when the former Perth Glory star blasted high and wide at the back post from a cross. Knights coach Ivan Duzel was not impressed with some refereeing decisions, but ultimately said his side needed to find the back of the net more often.

"I think we played an excellent game tonight, unfortunately a couple of fouls, one over there (far side of mansion stadium), it was last man and not even a yellow card.

"I don't want to go into the referee too much but we have to score more goals all the time, we have to score 2,3,4 goals to complete the game, because this is a new team, new spirit, new character.

"What I can say is we have a good bunch of boys, they're going to go hard into the future, to make sure we start winning games."

It was a last minute lapse that cost the Knights a seemingly certain three points against Heidelberg in round two, and this time, they should have taken the points in the dying stages, according to Duzel.

"We played around 70 minutes, we dropped about 5-10 minutes, then we come back last 10 minutes creating 3-4 good chances to finish the game off. Unfortunately we didn't, but the boys can lift it up when they need."

Duzel said he believed the guest stay of Knight Danny Tiatto would be just that, saying that he would most likely not play more games with his original club.

Sunshine coach Andy O'Dell was blunt in his assessment of his side, admitting the Georgies got out of jail.



The Georgies are a happy bunch thanks to a double from Kyle Joryeff.
PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

"Hammered. Very impressive, Melbourne Croatia, very good. From start to finish, we got hammered. They were far better at passing, they're a good side," he said.

O'Dell said it was an up and down second half for his side, saved by some brilliant finishing by Joryeff.

"We got one nil up, but we're not mentally strong, we're not.

"We switch off in vital times in the first half, we concede a silly goal, our defenders had a chance to clear it. The second goal, the boy's got a free header in the six-yard box, so you get what you deserve. It showed a bit of character to get

back in the game 2-2."

O'Dell said his mantra of staying in the premier league had not changed, and he did not get carried away by his side's spot in the top five early in the season.

"You get your priorities right, you have to stay in the league, we've got five points and we're unbeaten three games."

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HEIDELBERG UNITED



1

HUME CITY



3

Match Details:

Heidelberg United:
Tilovski – Elvin, Martin, Byles, Miller
– Lazaridis (Aleksovski 70’), Melo
(Hossaini 63’), Ederaro, Saglam
(Galanos 74’) – Tsiorlas, Basma

Yellow cards: Ederaro, Galanos
Red Cards: Nil

Goal Scorer: Aleksovski 90’ + 2

Hume City:
Acevski – Erdogan, Pace, Bosevski,
Reccobene – Carozo, Opazo, Baser
(Karakilic 79’), Talevski – Vlahos
(Delic 73’), Petrevski (Nakic 84’)
Yellow cards: Reccobene, Petrevski,
Baser
Red Cards: Nil

Goal Scorers: Petrevski 56’, Valhos
61’, Delic 78’

Player of the match: Steven Pace
(Hume City)
Crowd: approx. 1000

Under 21’s final score: Heidelberg
United 2 – 2 Hume City



Hume’s Zoran Petrevski tries to evade his heidelberg opponent. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

Hume too hot to handle

By John Fotinos

A dominant second-half display by Hume has seen it easily account for Heidelberg at the Olympic Village in the late game on Sunday night.

The 3-1 victory sees Hume as the only team in the VPL to record three wins from as many starts this season, and stamps them as one of the early title favourites (notwithstanding them starting the season on -3 points).

The game was played in balmy conditions on a newly laid surface, with Heidelberg at home for the first time this season. The first half was a tight affair, with both sides only creating one realistic chance each. Opazo for

Hume forced Tilovski in the Heidelberg goals into a sprawling block, with Ederaro for Heidelberg finishing a strong run from midfield with a shot narrowly wide with Acevski beaten. The collective Heidelberg pressure several times forced mistakes from their Hume counterparts, and the Heidelberg faithful would have been the slightly happier to go in at the main break with the score tied at 0-0. The second period saw Hume dominate from the outset, with their forwards Vlahos, Petrevski & Talevski work their way on top. The opening goal came courtesy of Petrevski, who powerfully headed home a Bosevski cross, having got free of his marker Byles. The goal lifted Hume, as

they began to dominate possession & threaten a second.

Just after the hour mark, former ‘Berger Andy Vlahos effectively sealed the three points for Hume. The player-coach latched on to a Talevski through ball to fire home from close range, after Heidelberg defender Craig Elvin lost possession of the ball in a dangerous position.

With a comfortable lead, Hume were able to rest Vlahos for the last 20 minutes of the match, and it was substitute Dusko Delic who added a third goal for the visitors. His curling shot from 25 metres out had Tilovski well beaten, as it sailed into the top right hand corner – perhaps an early contender for goal of the season.

As the home side pressed to try and salvage something from the game, substitute Saso Aleksovski grabbed a late consolation goal, but the final whistle saw Hume take all three points with a comfortable 3-1 scoreline. For Hume, Pace was superb in defence & the former Melbourne Victory defender leads an impressive back four along with Isyan Erdogan. For the home side, Ederaro, playing in an unfamiliar mid-field role, battled hard all night. Next week sees Hume take on the Melbourne Knights at Port Melbourne on Friday night, whereas Heidelberg United travel to Kevin Bartlett Reserve to take on Richmond, also on Friday night.



VPL Standings Round 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PT
Oakleigh Cannons	3	2	1	0	5	1	4	7
Hume City	3	3	0	0	8	2	6	6
Richmond	3	2	0	1	6	4	2	6
Sunshine Georgies	3	1	2	0	3	2	1	5
Bentleigh Greens	3	1	2	0	3	2	1	5
Green Gully	3	1	0	2	5	5	0	3
South Melbourne	3	0	3	0	5	5	0	3
Dandenong Thunder	3	1	0	2	2	7	-5	3
Altona Magic	3	0	2	1	1	2	-1	2
Northcote City	3	0	1	2	5	7	-2	1
Melbourne Knights	3	0	2	1	6	7	-1	- 1
Heidelberg Utd	3	0	1	2	6	9	-3	- 2



VPL Round 4

N.T.C v Northcote City DISC - Pitch 3 Wed 17 Mar KO 7:45PM
Oakleigh Cannons v Dandenong Thunder Jack Edwards Res Fri 19 Mar KO 8:30PM
Richmond v Heidelberg Utd Kevin Bartlett Res Fri 19 Mar KO 8:30PM
Hume City v Melbourne Knights SS Anderson Res Fri 19 Mar KO 8:30PM
Altona Magic v Northcote City Paisley Park Sun 21 Mar KO 3:00PM
South Melb v Green Gully Cavaliers Bob Jane Stdim Sun 21 Mar KO 5:00PM
Sunshine Georgies v Bentleigh Greens Knights Stadium Sun 21 Mar KO 7:00PM

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CITY NEAR YOU



NEW SOUTH WALES
BONDI JUNCTION, RAIL BOOKSTALL BONDI JUNCTION, SHOP 2, 93 GROSVENOR ST
BONDI JUNCTION, BONDI JUNCTION RAILWAY NEWS-AGENCY, GRAFTON ST
BONDI JUNCTION, BONDI JUNCTION NEWSAGENCY, 201 OXFORD ST
BONDI JUNCTION, EASTGATE NEWSAGENCY, 71-91 SPRING ST
CHATSWOOD, CHAT'S NEWSAGENCY, 569 PACIFIC HWY
CHATSWOOD, CHATSWOOD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 249, 813 PACIFIC H'WAY CNR HELP ST
CHATSWOOD, CHATSWOOD WESTFIELD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 229-230 WESTFIELD S/TOWN, SPRING ST
HORNSBY , NORTHGATE NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1066 WESTFIELD S/TOWN
HORNSBY, CORONATION STREET NEWSAGENCY, 16 CORONATION ST
HORNSBY, HORNSBY MALL NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1 33 FLORENCE ST
HORNSBY HEIGHTS, HORNSBY HEIGHTS NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 4, 110 GALSTON RD
HORNSBY, TO'S NEWSAGENCY HORNSBY WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN, SHOP 1, 33 FLORENCE ST
BURWOOD, TOMKINS & GODWIN NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 2A, 16-22 BURWOOD RD
BURWOOD, BURWOOD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 7, MURRAY ARCADE, 127-133 BURWOOD RD
PARRAMATTA, DALLAS NEWSAGENCY, THE CONNECTION ARCADE, SHOP 6, 162-172 CHURCH ST
PARRAMATTA, PARRAMATTA CBD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 16 MAYFAIR MALL, 272 CHURCH ST
PARRAMATTA, SHOP 2 NEW EASTERN SUBWAY, ARGYLE ST
NORTH ROCKS, GOODNEWS NEWSAGENCY, RAMP ON 328-335 NORTH ROCKS RD
NORTH ROCKS, NORTH ROCKS NEWSAGENCY, 312B NORTH ROCKS RD
LIVERPOOL, ELIZABETH DR NEWSAGENCY, UNIT 4 / 1 WOODLANDS RD
LIVERPOOL, LIVERPOOL PLAZA NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 27 LIVERPOOL PLAZA,NORTHUMBERLAND ST
LIVERPOOL, THAI L & V NEWSAGENCY, 64 MOORE ST
HURSTVILLE, FOREST ROAD NEWSAGENCY, 308 FOREST RD
HURSTVILLE, ORMONDE NEWSAGENCY HURSTVILLE, SHOP 4, 14-16 ORMONDE PARADE
HURSTVILLE , NORTH HURSTVILLE NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 4 LEADER BUILDING CNR.FOREST & PARK RD, 182 FOR-EST RD
MIRANDA , MIRANDA NEWSAGENCY, 88 KIORA RD
MIRANDA, STH MIRANDA NEWSAGENCY, 94A KIORA RD
TUGGERAH, SHOP 1082 WESTFIELD SHOP/TN, COBBS RD
KOTARA, SHOP 133 GARDEN CITY SHOPP CTR, CNR PARK AVE & NORTHCOTT DR
WARRAWONG, SHOP 4, 72-74 KING ST
WARRAWONG, SHOP 39 - 40 WESTFIELD, WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN
WARRAWONG, WARRAWONG NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1, 145 KING ST
FIGTREE, FIGTREE NEWSAGENCY - SHOP 1, 5 BELLEVUE RD
FIGTREE, FIGTREE NEWSAGENCY - SHOPS 29-30, WEST-FIELD S/CTR THE AVE

ALBURY, SHOP 4, 557 DEAN ST
COROWA , 65 SANGER ST
WAGGA WAGGA, FERNLEIGH RD
BERRIGAN, 26 CHANTER ST
PENRITH, SCHUBACH'S NEWSAGENCY, 495 HIGH ST
PENRITH, SOUTH PENRITH NEWSAGENCY & PO, 157 SMITH ST
PENRITH, MARKETLAND NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1, 7 CA-LOOLA AVE
PENRITH, SOUTHLANDS NEWSAGENCY, 157 SMITH ST
PENRITH, PENRITH PLAZA NEWSAGENCY, WOOLWORTHS ENT VIA JANE ST
MOUNT DRUITT, RJ & JP MITCHELL NEWSAGENCY, 2 MOUNT DRUIT RD
MOUNT DRUITT, MOUNT DRUITT NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 16 WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN, NORTH PARADE
BROKEN HILL, LAWRENCE NEWSAGENCY, 121 OXIDE ST
BROKEN HILL, WESTSIDE NEWSAGENCY, GALENA ST

ACT
ROBERTS CANBERRA CITY NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 6, CTRPOINT CITY WALK, CANBERRA
NEWSLINK NEWSAGENTS, 2 MORT ST, CANBERRA
CHUA, SHOP 2 CANBERRA ARCADE, WEST ROW, CAN-BERRA
HUNT NEWSAGENTS, 74 ALINGA ST, CIVIC CTR, CAN-BERRA
CONVENTION CENTRE NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1, 33 AL-LARA ST, CANBERRA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
VICTORIA SQ ARCADE, ADELAIDE
SHOP G11, 44-60 RUNDLE MALL, ADELAIDE
93 O'CONNELL ST, NORTH ADELAIDE
11-12 MALL 1 WEST LAKES MALL, WEST LAKES
SHOP 7, 190 FINDON RD, FINDON
CASTLE PLAZA S/C SHOP 56, SOUTH RD, EDWARDSTOWN
46 JETTY RD, GLENELG
150 GLEN OSMOND RD, FULLARTON
SHOP 22/23 TEA TREE PLAZA S/C, 976 NORTH EAST RD, MODBURY
SOUTH MALL, ELIZABETH SHOPPING CTR, ELIZABETH

WEST AUSTRALIA
NOARLUNGA CENTRE, SHOP 14-15 COLONNADES S/CEN-TRE, BEACH RD
PERTH, CLOISTERS NEWSAGENCY, SHOPS 7-8 / 865 HAY ST
HILLARYS, WHITFORD CITY NEWSAGENY, SHOP 46, WHIT-FORD CITY S/CTR
JOONDALUP, LAKESIDE NEWSAGENCY, SH 71 LAKESIDE SHOPPING CTR
BOORAGOON, GARDEN CITY NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 65/125 RISELEY ST

TASMANIA
Ellison Hawker Newsagency, TAS
Angus & Robertson, TAS
Elizabeth Mall Newsagency, TAS

QUEENSLAND
WHITEHEATHER NEWS, 131 GEORGE ST, BRISBANE
CITY NEWS, CNR EAGLE & CHARLOTTE STS, AMP BUILD-ING, BRISBANE
MARA NEWS, SHOP 2, CREST INT HOTEL, ROMA ST, BRIS-BANE
SUNCORP CENTRE NEWS, SUNCORP METWAY PLAZA, ALBERT ST, BRISBANE
NEWSXPRESS CITY PLAZA , GPO NEWS, CREEK ST, BRIS-BANE
LUCKY GOLDEN GOOSE NEWS, 140 ADELAIDE ST, BRIS-BANE
LUCKY GOLDMINE N/A, ADELAIDE ST & CNR EDWARD ST, BRISBANE
GEORGE ST NEWS, 370 GEORGE ST, BRISBANE
CITY MALL NEWS, QUEEN ST MALL, BRISBANE
PERRY HOUSE NEWS, CNR ALBERT & ELIZABETH STS, BRISBANE
WINTERGARDEN NEWS, SHOP 166 WINTERGARDEN CEN-TRE, QUEEN ST MALL ELIZABETH ST ENT, BRISBANE, CENTRAL STATION SUPA, CENTRAL STATION CON-COURSE , ANN ST, BRISBANE
MACS ONE NEWS, NEWSPAPER HOUSE, 289 QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
LUCKY CHINAMAN NEWS, 380 QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
MIDAS CASKET AGENCY, THE FOYER, 363 ADELAIDE ST, BRISBANE
TRANSIT CENTRE NEWS, 3RD LEVEL BRISBANE TRANSIT CNT, ROMA ST, BRISBANE
EAGLE STREET NEWS, GROUND FLOOR, 70 EAGLE ST, BRISBANE
POST OFFICE SQUARE NEWS, POST OFFICE SQUARE, QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
TERRACE NEWS, 149 WICKHAM TCE, BRISBANE
MARY STREET NEWS, 100 EDWARD ST, BRISBANE
PAPERMAN SUPANEWS, MYER CENTRE QUEEN ST, BRIS-BANE
TERRICA PLACE NEWS, AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CEN-TRE, 140 CREEK ST, BRISBANE
MYER CENTRE SUPANEWS, LEVEL E, MYER CENTRE, QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
BROADWAY SUPA NEWS, LG12 BRDWAY ON THE MALL, QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
CIVIC ARCADE N/A, SHOP 1, CIVIC ARCADE, 65 ADELAIDE ST, BRISBANE
ALBERT STREET NEWS, 80 ALBERT ST, BRISBANE
MINERAL HOUSE NEWS, 41 GEORGE ST, BRISBANE
GPO NEWS, 40 CREEK ST, BRISBANE
RANKINS ON THE MALL, CNR QUEEN & ALBERT STS, QUEEN ST MALL, BRISBANE
A28 SUPANEWS BRISANE SQUARE, SHOPS 17&18 BRIS-BANE SQUARE, GEORGE ST, BRISBANE
SUPA NEWS, SHOP GF28, BRDWAY ON THE MALL, 170 QUEEN ST, BRISBANE

